OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 1

Always Plenty to Do

1 Jehovah's people are busy people. We have many obligations in connection with our family, employment, and school. And above all, there is always "plenty to do in the work of the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58) We must prepare for and attend weekly congregation meetings. We are encouraged not to let a week go by without having some share in the field ministry. Sufficient time must be regularly set aside for personal and family Bible study. Elders and ministerial servants have many congregation assignments. At times we are asked to help worthy ones in need.

2 Occasionally, some of us may feel overwhelmed by all that we have to do. Yet, the busiest people can be among the happiest if balance and proper perspective are maintained. —Eccl. 3:12, 13.

3 The apostle Paul was one who had plenty to do. While caring for his own personal needs by working secularly as a tentmaker, he labored in excess of the other apostles. He worked tirelessly as an evangelizer, preaching publicly and from house to house, while not neglecting his responsibilities as a shepherd of the flock. (Acts 20:20, 21, 31, 34, 35) Despite his busy schedule, Paul was always eager to do more in Jehovah's service.—Compare Romans 1:13-15.

4 Paul maintained his balance and a happy heart by relying on Jehovah for strength. He found his ministry to be rewarding and satisfying. (Phil. 4:13) He knew that God would not forget his work. (Heb. 6:10) The joy of helping others to know Jehovah energized him. (1 Thess. 2:19, 20) The assurance of realizing his Bible-based hope impelled him to remain industrious. —Heb. 6:11.

5 We should also consider the good that results from our labors. Our presence at and participation in weekly meetings serve to upbuild and encourage others. (Heb. 10:24, 25) Our earnest efforts to reach all with the good news contribute to the advancement of the congregation as interest is cultivated and new ones associate with us. (John 15:8) Assisting others in need promotes a close-knit, familylike spirit in the congregation. (Jas. 1:27) Furthermore, like Paul, we should never forget that being busy in profitable works is well pleasing to Jehovah God. We deem it a grand privilege to serve him. For us there is no better way of life!

6 There is an added benefit in having plenty to do. When we are busy pursuing a healthy spiritual routine, time seems to go by much faster. Realizing that each day that passes brings us closer to the new world, we gladly accept the full life we enjoy now. We also realize the wisdom of staying busy, inasmuch as we have less time to get involved in futile worldly pursuits.—Eph. 5:15, 16.

7 Surely, there is plenty to do in the work of the Lord. But we can remain happy if we continue to rely on Jehovah God and Jesus Christ, who make our service refreshing and rewarding. —Matt. 11:28-30; 1 John 5:3.

Personal Study—A Matter of Concern

1 What matters give us cause for serious concern? We should be intensely concerned about building and maintaining a close relationship with Jehovah. Personal study plays a major role in developing such intimacy. Today, few of us have the circumstances that permit spending long periods of time in meditation and personal study. Yet, if we do not read God's Word regularly, we can become weakened to the point of not having the strength to resist the spirit of the world and its fleshly desires.

2 **Form a Longing for the Word:** When we first learned about God's purposes, likely we were eager to acquire more knowledge. Over a period of time, however, our hunger for spiritual nourishment may have become dull. There may be a need to "form a longing" for spiritual food. (1 Pet. 2:2) How can we develop such a longing?

3 The aroma of a favorite food will stir hunger pangs because of pleasant memories. Brief periods of personal study can affect us in a similar way spiritually. Enjoying a few tasty spiritual morsels may whet our appetite for deeper truths. The satisfaction that comes with learning may encourage us to dig deeper into Jehovah's Word.

4 **Develop a Routine That Works Best for You:** Some set aside an entire evening to do personal study, while others prefer shorter and more frequent periods of study. If you find that you can concentrate better in the early morning hours, you may decide to do some studying before breakfast. If you are more alert in the evening, you may choose to do your studying before retiring at night. Whatever the case, the important thing is to be regular and stick to the routine best suited to your needs.

5 When we are encouraged to do more personal study, we may be quick to point out that we already have a full schedule. However, all of us need to be honest in evaluating how we spend our time. Are many hours consumed each day watching television programs? Are we willing to sacrifice some personal interests? A realistic examination of how we use our time will likely reveal daily periods that could be used more profitably in personal study.—Eph. 5:15, 16.

6 The study of God's Word deserves our undivided attention. Trying to do something else at the same time minimizes the benefits. If we are inclined to study while eating, listening to the radio, or watching television, we are not likely to be absorbed in what we are trying to learn. (1 Tim. 4:15) So there is a need to get rid of distractions.—See *School Guidebook,* pages 33-4.

7 Daily study and application of Bible counsel are important because that is the way we receive guidance from Jehovah. Make it your goal to get the truth off the printed page and into your heart. Take advantage of every opportunity, no matter how brief, to read, review, or meditate on spiritual things.—Deut. 6:6-8; Col. 1:9, 10.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

Week Starting January 2

Song 83

5 min: Local announcements and appropriate Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

25 min: "1995 'Joyful Praisers' District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses." Question-and-answer coverage by secretary. First, read December 15, 1994, convention assignment letter. After considering the third paragraph of the article, read opening and closing paragraphs of Recommended Lodging Locations list from convention. Read paragraphs 4, 5, 8, 12, 13 of insert. Emphasize need for all to select accommodations from Recommended Lodging Locations list even if attending a convention outside the assigned area, as noted in paragraph 12. Stress the Bible principles of honesty, obedience, loving concern for others, and so forth, from the article even if it appears that no one will be using motel rooms. Commend those cooperating with the Society's rooming arrangement. Highlight paragraphs 16 and 17 for those who are deaf.

15 min: "Making Good Use of Our Older Books." Discuss with audience. Let congregation know what older books are available; encourage them to pick up copies for use in service. Arrange for one or two brief demonstrations of suggested presentations.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
January 2:	**p. 55, ¶6**	**p. 58, ¶15**
January 9:	**p. 58, ¶1**	**p. 61, ¶14**
January 16:	**p. 61, ¶15**	**p. 65, ¶25**
January 23:	**p. 66, ¶1**	**p. 69, ¶12**
January 30:	**p. 69, ¶13**	**p. 73, ¶26**

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**179**	**122.3**	**78.8**	**52.7**	**5.3**
Pios.	**76,659**	**81.5**	**38.1**	**24.8**	**2.4**
Aux. Pios.	**34,137**	**59.1**	**29.3**	**15.0**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**791,026**	**10.0**	**6.1**	**3.7**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**902,001**		Baptized: **3,342**		

The month of October brings a new peak in regular pioneers. The 76,659 reporting represent an increase of 704, or 1 percent, over the last peak, in October 1993.

Song 188 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 9

Song 183

15 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Review interesting features of the brochure *When Someone You Love Dies.* (See the October 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 7.) Encourage all to carry copies and to offer them when appropriate. Announce special field service arrangements for January 16.

15 min: "Shepherding That Is Upbuilding." Talk by an elder based on information under subheading pages 21-3 of September 15, 1993, issue of *The Watchtower*. Highlight Scriptural counsel to help cope with problems.

15 min: Are You Ready to Face a Faith-Challenging Medical Situation? Serious but motivating talk by capable elder to help brothers appreciate the protective value of our Advance Medical Directive/Release card and the Identity Card. Repeat program of last January to assure that all who qualify and want this protection can have it by filling out the cards. See the January 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 2, under "Week Starting January 10" for details.

Song 198 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 16

Song 182

10 min: Local announcements. Discuss talking points from latest magazines. Encourage all to share in field service this weekend.

18 min: "Show Consideration for Others—Part 1," Questions and answers. Include reminders about need for elders to work closely together in checking to see that the roof, plumbing, air-conditioning, heating, electrical systems, and provisions for security of the Kingdom Hall are kept in good repair.—See the November 1984 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4, and the December 1985 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 6.

17 min: "Show You Care by Making Return Visits." Three or four publishers discuss purpose and importance of making return visits. Emphasize goal of starting studies. Review suggested presentations. Have one or two demonstrations, with group giving commendation and suggestions for improvement.

Song 196 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 23

Song 161

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs, and where applicable, include discussion of territory seldom worked. Review January 1, 1995, letter. Encourage publishers to apply early for an assignment. If there are publishers who wish to assist in territory of nearby congregations, the circuit overseer should be contacted through the Congregation Service Committee.

10 min: "How to Organize a Theocratic Library." A talk based on the November 1, 1994, *Watchtower,* pages 28-31.

15 min: "Personal Study—A Matter of Concern." Questions and answers. Include selected comments based on the June 15, 1985, *Watchtower,* pages 8-13.

Song 116 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 30

Song 141

10 min: Local announcements. Theocratic News.

17 min: "Always Plenty to Do." Questions and answers. Arrange for two or three brief interviews with busy ones, such as an elder, a housewife, or a pioneer; ask them to explain how they are able to maintain a full schedule and still keep their joy.

18 min: Offer the *Live Forever* Book in February. Explain why there is a need for people to have the information this book contains. (See the April 1, 1988, *Watchtower,* pages 25-6, paragraphs 17, 18.) Briefly relate experiences showing appreciation displayed by sincere ones who have read it. (See the September 1, 1989, *Watchtower,* page 32, and the December 1, 1991, *Watchtower,* page 32.) Give some suggestions showing how we might start Bible studies with interested ones with whom we placed the *Live Forever* book. Have capable publisher briefly demonstrate second presentation under the heading "Life/Happiness" in *Reasoning* book, page 13. Or use another presentation appropriate for local territory. Remind audience to pick up literature for use in service this week.

Song 199 and concluding prayer.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

New Zealand: The August report shows a new peak of 12,867 publishers.

Thailand: The 1994 service year concluded with a new peak of 1,487 publishers. This was an 11-percent increase over last year's average.

Trinidad: A peak of 6,601 publishers was reached in August.

1995 "Joyful Praisers" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

1 What a joy it was to be among the 1,481,258 who attended the "Godly Fear" District Conventions in the United States branch territory this past summer! A total of 13,742 expressed proper godly fear by being baptized. How encouraging it will be to assemble next summer for the three-day 1995 "Joyful Praisers" District Conventions! That intriguing theme should truly motivate us to make every effort to attend along with our Bible students. The program will prove to be a real source of spiritual refreshment for all of us as we continue faithfully serving Jehovah in this time of the end.

2 Be sure to make your convention arrangements well in advance so that you can be there to enjoy all three days of the delightful spiritual program, from the opening song to the closing prayer. Lovingly include in your plans those who may need assistance, especially newly interested ones, so that they too can be present at every session. It would be very helpful to consider the information in this insert with any Bible students who may plan to attend. (Gal. 6:6, 10) The program starts with music at 9:40 a.m. on Friday and ends at approximately 4:30 p.m. The Saturday program begins at 9:30 a.m. and closes with song and prayer at approximately 4:40 p.m. The morning session on Sunday begins at 9:30, and the day's program concludes at approximately 3:50 in the afternoon. The following information will assist you with your preliminary preparations.

Instructions for Obtaining Rooms

3 After the Service Meeting for the week of January 2, congregations should post on the information board the Recommended Lodging Locations list for the district convention to which the congregation is assigned. This list gives all the motels presently cooperating with the Society's rooming arrangements. Your cooperation with these arrangements will assist the convention organization in its efforts to provide sufficient rooming accommodations for everyone at reasonable prices.

4 **What You Should Do:** After—NOT before—your congregation posts the Recommended Lodging Locations list containing the addresses, phone numbers, and agreed-upon rates of the motels, you are free to phone the motel of your choice from the list and make reservations. Identifying yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses or as a delegate attending the Watchtower convention will qualify you for the rates listed, which in most cases are greatly reduced.

To Obtain a Room

- Phone the motel of your choice *after* the Recommended Lodging Locations list is posted.
- Identify yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses or as a delegate attending the Watchtower convention.
- Be prepared to send one night's deposit immediately after reservation is made.
- If all motels or dormitories are filled, please wait patiently for the next list.

5 One night's DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED to

hold the room. Your deposit should be sent directly to the motel AS SOON AS you make reservations. If your deposit is not received by the motel, your reservations can be canceled at any time. MOTELS ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO HOLD ROOMS WITHOUT A DEPOSIT. If you must cancel your reservation, you should immediately notify the motel, making the room available for other delegates.

[6] If the motel you call first is filled, call your next selection from the list and so on. Often, everyone calls the motels closest to the convention facility being used; therefore, you may find it beneficial to try some motels farther away. These also have quality rooms at lower rates. The convention Rooming Department will continue to provide the congregations with revised lists, deleting motels that have been filled and listing additional motels until everyone has a room. Thus, if all the motels on the list are filled, please wait patiently for the next list, and you will be able to obtain a room.

[7] **Dormitories:** A few conventions use school dormitories in addition to motels in order to accommodate everyone. Usually, congregations will receive information on these a month or so after receiving the first motel listing. Those needing such accommodations should follow the instructions on the list sent to the congregations.

Special Needs

[8] This provision is only for exemplary publishers, including their well-behaved children, who are approved by the Congregation Service Committee. Arrangements to care for persons with special needs should be made by the congregation where they attend meetings, not shifting this obligation to the convention organization. Elders and others who are aware of the individual circumstances can lovingly extend help. This often requires that publishers consider the needs of those in full-time service, the elderly, the infirm, and perhaps others. Publishers may extend help by taking such ones with them or caring for their needs in other ways.—Jas. 2:15-17; 1 John 3: 17, 18.

[9] Of course, the Rooming Department will endeavor to provide suitable rooming accommodations for publishers with special needs if they cannot be assisted by those in the congregation. These publishers may discuss their situation with the congregation secretary. The secretary should speak with the Congregation Service Committee to see if it is possible for the congregation to assist these individuals in caring for their own rooming accommodations. If the congregation is unable to render the needed assistance, the secretary may give such persons a copy of the Special Needs Room Request form. Only those with special needs should fill out this form. It is to be filled out by the person making the request. It should be returned to the secretary, who will check it for completeness, accuracy, and verification of the circumstances that qualify the person for such consideration. The circumstances are to be EXPLAINED IN DETAIL by the secretary in the space provided on the form. All of this should be done well ahead of the convention. The secretary will then forward the form to the Rooming Department. The individual making the request will be notified directly about the accommodations.

[10] Those with special needs should NOT go to the convention and request a room when they arrive because the Rooming Department must have the verification of the Congregation Service Committee.

[11] Private-home accommodations are set aside for those who would experience real

hardship if such accommodations were not available. They are not intended for those who can afford motel rooms but who want free or inexpensive rooms just to save money. Furthermore, it is not proper for those making such requests to presume upon the hospitality of brothers by expecting to be accommodated additional days before or after the convention. These rooms are provided for the convention period ONLY. Those receiving such accommodations should be sure that they and their children act respectfully toward the home of their host and not rummage through or damage the host's possessions or enter private areas of the home. If householders experience problems along this line, these should immediately be brought to the attention of the rooming overseer at the convention, and he will be happy to help.

Delegates Attending From Outside the Assigned Area

[12] In nearly every case, the location assigned for you to attend is the one nearest your congregation. Arrangements for having adequate seating, literature, rooming accommodations, and so forth, are based on the premise that the majority of publishers will attend the convention to which their congregation is assigned. However, if for good reason you will be attending a convention other than the one assigned and need accommodations, the congregation secretary can give you the address for that convention headquarters from the list on the back of the Special Needs Room Request form. Then you can request in writing a copy of the motel listing for that location, sending along a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Upon receipt of this list, you should use it to make your reservation.

Your Cooperation Needed

[13] The success of this rooming arrangement depends on the cooperation of all of those involved. (Heb. 13:17) Thus, we are asking everyone to cooperate fully with the Society's rooming arrangement and USE ONLY THE MOTELS ON THE RECOMMENDED LODGING LOCATIONS LIST FOR THIS YEAR so that major difficulties we still experience in negotiating with the motels can be prevented. We have made contracts with the motels on the list, stating that our people will be using them. It is a guarantee that they will get the business if they make special rates for us. Most publishers are taking to heart the clear direction that has been given in previous convention inserts, and many good results are being experienced. However, it is still necessary to request that everyone PLEASE OBSERVE WAYS YOU CAN COOPERATE, as noted in the box on page 6.

[14] On the other hand, IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH A MOTEL, please do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of the Rooming Department overseer at the convention so that he can assist you in resolving the matter right away.

[15] The convention organization is working hard to save our brothers as much expense as possible. It is therefore in the best interests of all to cooperate fully with the Society's rooming arrangement so that this provision can continue. The listing gives a choice of good-quality accommodations at motels that cooperate. With this arrangement our aim is to help delegates to be accommodated as comfortably and economically as possible.

Ways You Can Cooperate

- Do not call motels in the convention city to ask them if they are on the current list or have special Watchtower rates for the convention. Also, please do not use the same motel year after year without first checking to see that it is definitely on the current list.

- Do not accept a higher price for a motel room than what is quoted on the current list.

- Please do not make reservations at a motel you do not intend to use or at more than one motel with the idea of checking them, selecting the best, and canceling the others. (Matt. 5:37) This is unfair, as it prevents the motels from getting business they could have had and deprives other publishers of the use of those rooms, which are often vitally needed.

- Do not reserve rooms for yourself or others without giving names and immediately sending the deposit for each room.

- Do not put more people in the room than the law and the management allow, which is normally no more than four or five persons, including children. Remember, you are paying a rate based on the number of persons you AGREED would be in the room.

Sign Language Conventions

16 Considering the success of American Sign Language conventions last year, we are happy to announce that the same provision will be made this year. The program parts will not be interpreted but will be given in American Sign Language by qualified brothers. This means that the entire convention program will be conveyed directly to those in attendance, who will also be able to enjoy very upbuilding fellowship. In view of this, NO PROVISION for any type of sign language will be made at any other conventions.

17 It is important that all deaf individuals IMMEDIATELY begin making plans to attend one of these two sign-language district conventions. The elders should diligently check with each deaf person in their congregation to be sure that these know about this arrangement and to determine whether any assistance is needed so that they can attend.

Note to Body of Elders: Please read the Society's December 15, 1994, convention assignment letter and the first and last paragraphs of the Recommended Lodging Locations list for your congregation during the Service Meeting for the week of January 2. After that meeting, post the letter and the list on the information board. Elders are NOT to change their Service Meeting to an earlier night for this week. NO ONE, INCLUDING THE ELDERS, SHOULD MAKE MOTEL RESERVATIONS BEFORE THIS SERVICE MEETING. In this way all congregations will receive the information the same week. To the extent possible, the congregation secretary should handle convention-related material and announcements on future Service Meetings unless otherwise specified or he is unable to do so.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature to be used during **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1982 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have the older books in stock should offer *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* **February:** *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* will be featured. Placements of this book should be followed up with return visits, and efforts should be made to start Bible studies. **March:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. For territory that is covered frequently, any brochure (except the *School* brochure) may be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14). The pre-1982 publications mentioned above are not available in Brooklyn.

■ Congregations should make convenient arrangements to celebrate the Memorial this year on Friday, April 14, after sundown. While it is desirable for each congregation to hold its own Memorial celebration, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. The Memorial should not start so late that newly interested people find it inconvenient to attend. Further, the schedule should not be so tight that there is no time before or after the celebration to greet visitors, make arrangements for continued spiritual assistance for some, or enjoy a general interchange of encouragement. After thoroughly considering all factors, the elders should decide what arrangements will best help those who attend the Memorial to benefit fully from the occasion.

■ On Sunday, April 23, 1995, a special public talk will be given in all congregations. The title will be "False Religion's End Is Near." Be sure to invite all those who attend the Memorial this year. A special effort will be made to help the millions of students with whom home Bible studies are being conducted. Information to be presented following the meeting that day will stimulate them and our brothers in general to anticipate having a share in distributing a special tract. At the same time, it will point out problems individuals are facing and the need to act decisively in accord with God's Word.

■ Starting in February, and no later than March 5, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "Divine Teaching Triumphs Worldwide." This will be a slide presentation highlighting the special international "Divine Teaching" Conventions that were held during the 1993 and 1994 service years. In those areas where the slides will not be made available until a later date, circuit overseers will give the talk "Trust in the God of All Comfort" and continue with it until such time as the slides are received. When all congregations have had the slide talk, circuit overseers will continue giving the talk "Trust in the God of All Comfort" until the next new circuit overseer talk is scheduled for early in 1996.

■ At the Service Meeting the week of January 9, all baptized publishers present will have made available to them a personal copy of the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and Identity Cards for their children.

Show Consideration for Others—Part 1

1 We rejoice to see the prosperity of Jehovah's people, which has resulted in a growing number of congregations. In some areas, especially in larger cities, a strain has been put on Kingdom Hall facilities, sometimes requiring several congregations to use the same Kingdom Hall. This situation calls for extra consideration on the part of all involved.

2 Each congregation using the Kingdom Hall should leave it in neat and orderly condition for the brothers who come in next. The chairs should be put in order, any literature on the counter should be put away, and any personal items left around the Kingdom Hall should be collected. The rest rooms should be left in tidy condition, making sure that soap, towels, and paper supplies have been replenished and trash receptacles emptied.

3 When another meeting is scheduled to start shortly, those remaining after an earlier meeting should not tarry unnecessarily, interfering with preparations for the next meeting. Extended social conversation may result in overcrowding in the lobby and delay the brothers in getting things organized for the next meeting. Parking space around the Kingdom Hall may be limited, and it would be a kindness to leave promptly so that those coming in will have a place to park. On the other hand, those attending the next meeting should not arrive too early, causing unnecessary congestion in the lobby, cloakroom, and parking lot.

4 Where several congregations are involved, there is a special need for close cooperation in making arrangements for weekly cleaning of the Kingdom Hall. Usually, the congregations take turns for a designated period. When your congregation has that responsibility, make sure that the cleaning is done thoroughly and promptly. The other congregations using the hall will then have no cause for complaint.

5 Occasionally there is a need for each congregation to change its meeting times, such as when the circuit overseer visits. If another congregation is affected, the elders should advise the other congregation well in advance so that they can inform their publishers as early as possible. Also, if some authorized activity, such as a Pioneer Service School, a meeting of the circuit elders, or a wedding, is scheduled, the other congregations and any circuit overseers affected should be consulted well in advance; they will thus not schedule use of the Kingdom Hall at the same time.

6 There are quite a number of halls used by congregations assigned to different circuits. It is essential that the traveling overseers visiting these halls keep one another informed about upcoming visits that are being scheduled. Last-minute adjustments or other difficulties can result when two traveling overseers schedule visits during the same week.

7 Loving consideration for others, good communication, advance planning, and cooperation will help to maintain a warm relationship between congregations and will ensure that "all things take place decently and by arrangement."—1 Cor. 14:40.

Making Good Use of Our Older Books

[1] Jehovah has provided us with an abundance of rich spiritual food. Much of this material has been in the form of 192-page books that have been published in recent years. During January we will be offering any 192-page book that was published prior to 1982. Do you have some of these at home that are still in good condition? Does the congregation have some in stock? If so, it would be good to review their contents and pick out some talking points you can use in your presentation.

[2] ***If you are using the book "Let Your Kingdom Come," you might begin by saying:***

■ "Christians have prayed for the coming of God's Kingdom for almost 2,000 years. What do you think the Kingdom will do for mankind? [Allow for response. Turn to the box on page 25, and point out some of the blessings that will be realized under Kingdom rule.] This book discusses things the Kingdom will accomplish and explains how you and your loved ones can benefit. If you would like to read it, I will be pleased to leave you a copy."

[3] ***If you are featuring the book "Happiness—How to Find It," you might try this approach:***

■ "Most people have difficulty finding happiness in this world because there are so many problems. Do you think it is possible to be happy under present conditions? [Allow for response. Turn to page 41, and point out some common problems that give us cause for anxiety.] The Bible shows how we can cope with these problems and eventually enjoy unending happiness in a peaceful new world. [Turn to page 190, and read Isaiah 32:17, 18.] The Bible gives specific counsel that can help us find greater happiness in living. This book reviews that counsel and explains how we can apply it."

[4] ***If you are using the book "True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?," you might like to try this:***

■ "Everyone would like to live in a world where there is peace and security. Sad to say, we have not experienced that in our lifetime. What do you think we need to do to make peace and security a reality? [Allow for response.] God has the power to bring peace to this earth, and he has promised that he will do it." Turn to the picture on page 98, and then read Micah 4:3, 4. If there is good response, explain more about the Kingdom hope, offer the book, and make arrangements for a return visit.

[5] ***You might choose to use the brochure "Does God Really Care About Us?" If so, you could say this:***

■ "Many people wonder why God permits so much suffering in the world. Since he is almighty, why doesn't he do something to bring an end to our distress? How do you feel? [Allow for response.] The Bible assures us that God has not abandoned us." Turn to page 27, paragraph 22, and read Psalm 37:11, 29. Point out the appealing illustration depicting what we can look forward to. If the brochure is accepted, offer to return to show how it can be used for Bible study.

[6] Our literature has motivated thousands of people to examine the Bible more closely. What they have learned has brought them hope for a happy future. (Ps. 146:5) It is our privilege to help them.

Show You Care by Making Return Visits

[1] Searching out interested persons from door to door demonstrates your desire to give others the opportunity to hear the Kingdom message. So be sure to follow up the literature placements you make during the month of January, as this is a fine way to show you care about others.

[2] ***If you left the book "Let Your Kingdom Come," you could try to resume your conversation this way:***

■ "Previously we talked about God's Kingdom and what it will do for us. That Kingdom will soon make this earth a paradise. Since we have never seen a paradise, it may be hard to visualize it. Here is what it might look like. [Refer to the illustration on pages 4 and 5.] Such a paradise is promised in the Bible." Read Psalm 72:7. If there is interest, turn to page 175, paragraphs 3 and 4, and point out what we must do if we want to live in the coming Paradise.

[3] ***Here is a suggestion for following up your placements of the book "Happiness—How to Find It":***

■ "All of us would like to be happy. Many feel that genuine happiness is an impossibility in this world. How do you feel about that? [Allow for response.] It has been said that happiness is a state of mind. If our minds are filled with love for others, respect for God, and a sure hope for the future, we can experience genuine happiness in spite of our problems." Read Psalm 119:1, 2. Explain that a study of the Bible teaches us how to love others, show respect for God, and find a comforting hope for the future.

[4] ***You might follow up a placement of the book "True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?" with a brief presentation something like this:***

■ "World leaders today have been unable to bring peace and security. Jehovah God is the only one who can do that. The Bible shows us what we need to do. [Discuss points in paragraphs 1 and 2 on page 175, and then read Isaiah 26:4.] I'd like to show you how this book can help you."

[5] ***You might follow up a placement of the brochure "Does God Really Care About Us?" with this suggestion:***

■ "Previously I left you a copy of this brochure, which raises a vital question: 'Does God really care about us?' After reviewing this brochure, what conclusion did you come to? [Allow for response.] Likely you were encouraged by reading the scriptures that promise a paradise new world, where we can live in peace. [Show the illustrations on pages 2 and 3, and point out some of the appealing features of the new world.] I feel sure that you and your loved ones would like to live in such a world. Notice what paragraph 16 on page 31 says about this." Read the paragraph, and point out that searching for Jehovah means learning more about him and his purposes by studying his Word, the Bible.

[6] Jehovah has set a perfect example as a loving Shepherd who cares for his sheep. (Ezek. 34:11-14) Our sincere effort to imitate his loving care pleases him, demonstrates our love, and brings blessings to others.

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Our Kingdom Ministry (USPS 295-360) is published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., and International Bible Students Association, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Printed in U.S.A.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 2

Preaching—An Honored Privilege

2 Cor 4:8

Food

¹ The ministry of the good news is an honored privilege that Jehovah has extended to us. (Rom. 15:16; 1 Tim. 1:12) Is that the way you view it? Neither the passage of time nor the ridicule of others should be allowed to diminish its importance in our eyes. Bearing God's name is an honor given only to a few. How can we make our appreciation for this privilege grow?

² Preaching the Kingdom message does not bring us the world's favor. Many view our work with apathy or indifference. Others ridicule and oppose it. Such opposition can come from workmates, neighbors, or even family members. In their eyes we may appear to be misguided and foolish. (John 15:19; 1 Cor. 1:18, 21; 2 Tim. 3:12) Their discouraging comments are designed to dampen our zeal and cause us to slow down or to relinquish our honored privilege. Negative views are promoted by Satan, who "has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, that the illumination of the glorious good news . . . might not shine through." (2 Cor. 4:4) How do you react?

³ It is important to keep in mind that our preaching about the Kingdom is the most important work any of us could be doing today. We have a lifesaving message that is available through no other means. (Rom. 10:13-15) Having God's approval, not that of man, is what counts. The world's negative view of our preaching activity does not deter us from boldly declaring the good news.—Acts 4:29.

What did Jesus do I feel?

⁴ Jesus highly esteemed his privilege to do his Father's will. (John 4:34) He devoted himself exclusively to the ministry and did not allow either distractions or opposers to slow him down. Preaching the Kingdom message always took first place in his life. (Luke 4:43) We are commanded to imitate his example. (1 Pet. 2:21) In doing so, we serve as "God's fellow workers." (1 Cor. 3:9) Are we taking full advantage of this privilege? Do we seek occasions to share the good news with others both formally and informally? As Witnesses of Jehovah, we should always be ready to "make public declaration to his name."—Heb. 13:15.

⁵ Our share in the ministry is largely determined by our attitude. Do we deeply appreciate all that Jehovah has done for us? Have we developed in our hearts a love for Jehovah that motivates us to do all we can in his service? Meditating on the blessings we now enjoy as well as what Jehovah has promised for the future helps us to abound in love for our Creator. Such love motivates us to action—persistence and regularity in the Kingdom-preaching work to the extent our circumstances allow. Our zeal will give evidence of our love for Jehovah and our neighbor.—Mark 12:30, 31. whole

⁶ We show how highly we value something by what we do with it and say about it. Do we truly value our privilege to preach about the Kingdom? Do we glorify our ministry? Are we determined to persevere in this vital work in spite of opposition? If we highly esteem this wonderful privilege, we will surely be zealous and wholehearted.—2 Cor. 4:1, 7. – Not

Ministry of saving live

I must declare

The Word of the Kingdom—Getting the Sense of It

¹ In his illustration of the sower, Jesus said that the seed falling on "the fine soil" pictured "the one hearing the word and getting the sense of it." (Matt. 13:23) After hearing about the Kingdom, have we got "the sense of it"? How much does it influence our lives? Have we put Kingdom interests in first place, thus revealing that we did get the sense of the message?

² A correct understanding of the Kingdom message requires personal study. We need to take time to meditate on the spiritual food provided. Hasty reading of *The Watchtower* is like gulping down a tasty and nutritious meal. Do you take time to give the spiritual food thorough consideration? To gain the most benefit, there must be an incentive and a healthy spiritual appetite. If these are lacking, other activities can minimize the benefits of personal study or consume the time we need for it. Sticking to a good study schedule is not easy. While it takes a careful balancing of priorities, the spiritual riches to be gained are priceless.—Prov. 3:13-18; Col: 1:27.

³ *Examining the Scriptures* helps us each day to entertain positive, upbuilding thoughts about the Kingdom. Those who are "conscious of their spiritual need" plan to take a few minutes every day to read the text and comments. (Matt. 5:3) Many texts explain various facets of the Kingdom. For example, on November 22, 1994, the text featured was Matthew 13:4. The comment considered the Kingdom hope and reminded us of the dangers of unwholesome association with relatives and neighbors. The fact that at Bethel homes around the world, there is a 15-minute discussion of the daily text each workday morning emphasizes the benefits and the seriousness of considering the day's text together. Does your family include a similar consideration in your daily routine?

Invite you to [illegible] April

⁴ As you grow in appreciation for the Kingdom, there will be a greater incentive to share the Kingdom message with others. *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* provide what might be likened to mental fuel that feeds our minds with fresh, up-to-date information. They help us to maintain a keen awareness of how much the world needs God's Kingdom. They help us to be spiritual persons, who "have the mind of Christ." (1 Cor. 2:15, 16) All of this can strengthen our hope and increase our zeal to share the Kingdom hope with others. —1 Pet. 3:15.

⁵ It is vital that we personally get the sense of the Kingdom message. The Kingdom is the means that God will use to uphold his sovereignty, end wickedness, and bring a new world—a paradise. Jesus commanded us to put it first in our lives. We must be sheeplike subjects to live under its rule. (Matt. 6:10, 33) Make the most of your opportunity to enjoy its blessings.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Week Starting February 6

Song 73

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Demonstrate how articles in the latest magazines can be featured in the door-to-door work.

17 min: "Preaching—An Honored Privilege." Questions and answers. Make additional comments based on the July 15, 1990, *Watchtower*, page 19, paragraphs 13-16.

18 min: "Effectively Introducing the *Live Forever* Book." Review main points with audience, including comments in *School Guidebook*, pages 46-7, paragraphs 9-12. Discuss what kind of introduction might be effective in your territory. Have one or two presentations demonstrated.

Song 82 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 13

Song 103 ZANE

5 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Mention Society acknowledgments of donations that may have been received. ~~DAE~~ KH

10 min: Local needs. Or a talk on the article "Why Talk About God?" in the September 22, 1994, *Awake!*, pages 13-15.

LF **15 min:** "The Word of the Kingdom—Getting the Sense of It." Questions and answers. Have two or three individuals relate how and when they arrange to do their personal study or review the daily text. WM

15 min: "Show Consideration for Others—Part 2." Talk and discussion to be handled by an elder. Point out any problems that have been observed locally, and give appropriate admonition.

Song 109 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 20

Song 134 LW

12 min: Local announcements. Point out current magazine articles that are appropriate for local territory. Demonstrate presentations. LS

15 min: "1995 District Convention Simplification." Insert. Talk on paragraphs 1-8, to be handled by presiding overseer. Stress positive benefits of adjustment to no food service. OD

18 min: "Follow Up Interest You Found." Discuss with audience. Relate comments expressing appreciation for receiving the *Live Forever* book. (See the May 15, 1986, *Watchtower*, page 32, and the March 1, 1987, *Watchtower*, page 32.) Have one or two brief demonstrations showing how suggested presentations can be used. Encourage all to try to start studies with interested ones.

Song 147 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 27

Song 184 RA

10 min: Local announcements. Discuss "Benefiting From Revised Public Talks." MS

20 min: "1995 District Convention Simplification." Insert. Questions and answers on paragraphs 9-19, to be handled by congregation secretary. Call attention to box of reminders at conclusion. Stress using ingenuity to bring only necessary food and related items to convention. DH

15 min: Offering the *Revelation Climax* book during March. Encourage everyone to be enthusiastic about offering it. Review the reasons for its publication, as explained in the book on page 8. Relate expressions of appreciation for the book. (See the March 15, 1989, *Watchtower*, page 32, and the April 15, 1989, *Watchtower*, page 32.) Review and briefly demonstrate presentation that begins with the question, "Have you ever heard of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse?" (See the March 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 4.) Remind all to pick up copies for use in service this weekend.

Song 207 and concluding prayer.

Benefiting From Revised Public Talks

[1] The modern history of Jehovah's Witnesses is accurately described in the words of Proverbs 4:18: "The path of the righteous ones is like the bright light that is getting lighter and lighter until the day is firmly established."

[2] In line with this, the Christian congregation continues to receive timely clarification of and updated information on Bible teachings. (Matt. 24:45-47) Likely you can relate examples of this that you have noted since you began to associate with Jehovah's Witnesses. Congregation meetings, including public talks, help us to keep abreast of the increasing light of truth.

[3] **Revised Outlines:** Recently, the Society has updated a number of public talk outlines. Fresh material has been incorporated into them, and important points have been clarified. If the congregation is to receive the full benefit of this updated information, brothers who give public talks should use only the very latest outlines.

[4] With a view to getting the most out of public talks, give some thought to the titles of the talks to be given. Before you attend the Public Meeting, try to recall the latest information from theocratic sources on the subject. Then, while listening, anticipate the development of this information. Take note of any fresh ways of presenting these truths for future use. This ensures that you will derive the greatest benefit from the revised public talks.

[5] **Public Talks Should Inform and Also Motivate Listeners:** When Jesus spoke, he reached the hearts of his listeners. At the conclusion of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the most famous public talk ever given, as Matthew 7:28 reports: "The effect was that the crowds were astounded at his way of teaching."

[6] Having Jesus' example in mind, bodies of elders should use discretion in approving new public speakers, assigning only those brothers who are fine teachers, who will adhere closely to the Society's outlines, and who are able to hold the attention of the audience. Brothers who are assigned the privilege of giving public talks should continually strive to improve their speaking ability, accepting any counsel and suggestions received from the elders.

[7] As foretold at Isaiah 65:13, 14, the spiritual prosperity of God's people continues to become more evident. The arrangement for public talks is one of the many ways that we are "taught by Jehovah."—Isa. 54:13.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**201**	**120.8**	**71.8**	**52.0**	**5.4**
Pios.	**75,839**	**78.9**	**34.5**	**24.4**	**2.5**
Aux. Pios.	**24,476**	**58.5**	**26.0**	**15.5**	**1.4**
Pubs.	**794,210**	**9.7**	**5.7**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**894,726**			Baptized: **2,823**	

1995 District Convention Simplification

[1] How thrilling it is to be present at spiritual feasts, whether at congregation meetings, circuit assemblies, special assembly days, or district conventions! Why? Fellowship with God-fearing persons is refreshing, and the spiritual matters presented on such occasions remind us of the more important things.

[2] Increasing thousands have been drawn to such spiritual gatherings in recent years. Between the years 1985 and 1994, the number of congregations worldwide increased over 50 percent, from 49,716 to 75,573. As Jehovah speeds up the ingathering work, the number of district conventions and circuit assemblies increases accordingly. (Isa. 60:22) Even the increase in the number of conventions held just in the United States branch territory, from 113 in 1985 to 168 in 1994, is a reflection of this tremendous growth in the number of congregations. The resulting work involved in arranging for and handling these conventions has been escalating. Since we assemble to benefit from the spiritual program prepared for these feasts, it is wise to simplify as far as is practical in caring for the physical arrangements.

[3] **Further Steps to Be Taken:** We look to Jehovah for his blessing as we move forward progressively. We are happy to see that he has given his people the needed spirit of wisdom and understanding. We must agree that through the faithful slave class, Jesus Christ has directed matters efficiently for the outworking of Jehovah's purpose in a marvelous way. (Matt. 24:45-47; Col. 1:9, 10) An announcement in the December *Our Kingdom Ministry* stated: "Beginning with the 1995 district conventions and the September 1995 circuit assemblies and special assembly days, there will be no food served. Each one is to bring his own food and drink." Circuit assemblies and special assembly days will continue with their present simplified food service arrangements through August 1995. There has been a positive response to this announcement. You may be interested in knowing how this change will be of benefit. Perhaps the following review of adjustments that have been made in recent years will prove to be a good reminder of the benefits we have already received by simplifying the work at conventions.

[4] **Previous Adjustments to Simplify:** Prior to the implementation of standardized and simplified district convention arrangements, such as food service, volunteer service, and rooming, much work was required on the part of thousands of local brothers and sisters in preconvention work. In view of the pressures and demands made on our brothers by daily living and the continued growth of the organization, adjustments to simplify the work were indeed necessary. Additionally, as a result of simplifying our food service operation in the United States in 1978, over 70,000 brothers and sisters who used to work hard during the sessions to provide us with food were able to listen to the program. In 1987 further simplification procedures were implemented with regard to food service at conventions and during the following service year at Assembly Halls. Later, food items were made available at conventions and assemblies at no charge to those attending. What fine adjustments these were, making the work lighter and allowing more attention to be given to the spiritual aspects of the convention, with the workers being able to listen and enjoy more of the program. (Deut. 31:12) Those faithful ones among us with many years of loyal service well remember these advancements and have expressed appreciation for the direction received. But what work could further be eliminated to make it possible for even more to benefit fully from the spiritual program?

[5] **Anticipated Changes:** During the years that a simplified menu was prepared and served, it was seen that relatively "few

things" were truly "needed." (Compare Luke 10:38-42.) However, multiplying such few things times the number attending still represented a great volume of supplies and work, as well as added expensive equipment. Then, too, a very large number of volunteers were needed to organize and support the arrangements. Food storage and distribution centers had to be provided. Additionally, some municipal health departments have been extreme in their requirements for serving food, and this has been a burden to the brothers in charge. The Society's refrigerated trailers have had to be loaded with consignments of food, transported many miles, and unloaded. All of this has involved liabilities of great concern to the Society. The trailers have also required maintenance, storage, and routing that involve work, time, and expense. With further simplification, there will be no need to have refrigerated trailers for convention use or tractors to move these trailers. Furthermore, many brothers will be relieved of the large task of maintaining this equipment.

[6] The willing service of those who have served as volunteers in these related areas has been of inestimable value and very much appreciated. However, with this further simplification, those thousands serving in the field doing maintenance and driving trucks as well as purchasing, preparing, expediting, and serving the food will be able to use their time in other necessary Kingdom pursuits, including enjoying fellowship at the conventions more fully. Those volunteers who used to serve in Food Service will now be able to assist in other departments, such as Attendants and Cleaning. This will lighten the load for everyone and will not require that many work late at night, early in the morning, or during the sessions, as was the case with a number in Food Service.

[7] **Supporting the Arrangements:** The Society appreciates very much the fine support you brothers and sisters have given "with a complete heart" over the years to the convention arrangements, including food service. (1 Chron. 29:9) This has helped in many ways. It has made it possible to rent good buildings and care for the convention expenses. It has also enabled those attending to remain at the convention site during the short noon break so as to obtain food conveniently, be refreshed, and then be present for the spiritual program. And no doubt the generosity and support that has been shown by the brothers and sisters in contributing for these provisions will continue. It has been an expression of their appreciation in a practical way.—Prov. 11:25; Luke 16:9.

[8] **Caring for Your Food Needs:** With these further adjustments, however, it will be necessary for individuals and family groups to provide just for themselves what is needed in the way of material sustenance during our noon break. We highly esteem the fine benefits of the spiritual program. To let physical food assume undue importance would be unwise. It is vital that each one "make sure of the more important things" in this regard. (Phil. 1:9, 10a) Recent large conventions of Jehovah's people in Poland, Russia, and Ukraine, as well as in other places, have been held with fine success without food service arrangements. Additionally, some circuits in this country have held their assemblies and special assembly day programs without food service because of local circumstances. In each case the delegates brought their own food for lunch. We will find that if we bring just a light noon snack, it will contribute to our having an alert mental state, enabling us to derive full benefit from the afternoon program. In harmony with this, everyone should bring food that is simple and nourishing. For example, when Jesus fed the crowds, he provided just two items, bread and fish. (Matt. 14:16-20; see also Luke 10:42a.) To that end, we are pleased to offer some suggestions as to what might be appropriate and practical in view of the shortened noon break and the type of facilities we use.

[9] Since there will no longer be food service arrangements at the convention, with good planning those attending will be able

to enjoy breakfast with their family either at home or at a local eating place. By getting sufficient rest the night before, you should be able to rise early enough to obtain what is necessary for morning nourishment and arrive at the convention in plenty of time to enjoy fellowship with other delegates. Another benefit of the new arrangement is that the doors to the facilities will not need to be staffed and opened as early as when food service volunteers were admitted along with their families. The doors to the buildings will open at 8:00 a.m. for all delegates, with the exception of those few with specific work assignments that make it necessary for them to enter earlier. As previously, there will be no need for any to rush to the convention site looking for seats, for there has been adequate seating planned for the estimated crowd.

[10] The noon break will be somewhat shorter than at previous conventions. However, it will still provide an opportunity to take in some light nourishment, as well as time for some association with others. Our brothers and sisters who live in the convention city or nearby and who daily return home in the evening will readily be able to prepare a small amount of food for each member of the family to bring for the day's noon break. This would be much the same as the lunch youths take to school, perhaps a sandwich and a piece of fruit, a cookie, and something to drink. Many people take similar lunches to their secular jobs.

[11] This will no doubt present more of a challenge for those attending from localities outside the convention city, as some advance planning for their noon food items will be necessary. Perhaps such items as napkins and disposable paper cups for those traveling in your group could be brought from home. Some may find that a light snack of some fresh fruit or vegetables would be enough to satisfy their needs, and this could be brought from home as well. Other food needs for each day's noon break may be obtained at a grocery store in the convention city. Of course, we realize that refrigeration of an extended menu will not be possible for those staying in hotels.

[12] As a reminder, please DO NOT COOK IN HOTEL ROOMS unless they have a kitchenette for that purpose. It is dangerous and illegal to do so and can damage room furnishings with stains and grease. It produces odors that are hard to remove from the room for days. All of this makes it difficult for the hotel to rent the room again without the expense and work of cleaning and deodorizing it. That is why it may be wise to consider purchasing nonperishable items, such as nuts, dried fruit, and crackers, or you may choose to bring along baked items, such as bread, rolls, or muffins. If a lunch item, such as a sandwich, is desired, perhaps the food store you locate may have a delicatessen section where these items are prepared. Purchasing this type of item already made would eliminate food preparation in hotel rooms or vehicles.

[13] Inasmuch as the convention site actually becomes a large Kingdom Hall during the convention, it is also wise to avoid developing a picnic atmosphere during the noon break. And just as we do not eat during meetings at the Kingdom Hall, neither would we be eating or drinking during convention sessions. Large family-size picnic coolers will not be permitted in the facility where the convention is held. They could create hazards and cannot be left in aisles or placed on seats. Perhaps reusable tote bags or disposable paper sacks would be better suited to the light snack items that will be needed for our noon break. If necessary, a small cooler that can be placed under, not on, a seat might be used.

[14] Caution also needs to be exercised with regard to the types of drink containers we choose to bring to the convention site. Hot drinks may be brought in thermoses. Glass containers of any kind can prove to be a hazard. Many facilities even prohibit their use. We request, therefore, that NO GLASS CONTAINERS be brought on the premises. If your selected cold beverage cannot be purchased in a plastic or aluminum container, it would be best to pour it into another type of small

nonbreakable container that would fit under your seat.

15 **Additional Benefits:** Truly we can see the wisdom of such adjusted arrangements. All will be able to give full attention to the receiving of spiritual benefits—the real purpose of our assembling. These benefits are provided in the association we enjoy as well as the program itself. So instead of leaving the facility at the noon break to seek food, how beneficial it will prove to be to bring something with us. This will make it possible to enjoy the fellowship of our brothers and sisters and will prevent us from missing any of the afternoon program.

16 Being spiritually refreshed following the afternoon program, some might enjoy continuing Christian fellowship and conversation about the good things learned while taking in a more substantial meal with family and friends in local eating establishments. Others may just pick up something in a grocery store or a delicatessen. Those who are able to return to their own home may choose to have an evening meal there, much as they do other days that they spend in secular work or field service.

17 We truly enjoy the spiritual banquet at these assemblies and conventions, where we receive new publications, fine teaching, and practical counsel. These blessings are what everyone remembers, along with the joy of being with God's assembled people. Proverbs 10:22 says: "The blessing of Jehovah —that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it." This is because as Jehovah's people, we do not attend conventions with material wants and comforts in view. We assemble with the positive desire to gain the greatest benefit possible in a spiritual way, and Jehovah richly rewards us for the spirit we show.—1 Tim. 6:6-8; Heb. 11:6.

18 These occasions for encouragement also remind us of the progress of the spiritual harvest. (John 4:35, 36) The opening words of Isaiah chapter 54 call upon Jehovah's wifelike organization to prepare for joyous increases. Further growth, expansion, and renewed strength are in the offing as Isaiah prophesied: "Make the place of your tent more spacious. And let them stretch out the tent cloths of your grand tabernacle. Do not hold back. Lengthen out your tent cords, and make those tent pins of yours strong. For to the right and to the left you will break forth." Fulfillment of this exciting prophecy has resulted in the phenomenal expansion of true worship that we now see.—Isa. 54:1-4.

19 It truly does appear to be the course of good judgment to implement this further simplified convention arrangement so that with less distraction all will be able to enjoy the spiritual program that has been prepared. We trust that this also will have Jehovah's blessing, since it will allow for more efficient handling of further growth. By focusing on what is needed, we will be able to enjoy our planned days of happy fellowship and spiritual good things. It is our sincere prayer that Jehovah will bless all our efforts as we continue to convene and be fed at his table.—Compare Deuteronomy 16:14, 15.

Benefits of No Food Service Arrangements

- Less work before, during, and after program, allowing for more fellowship
- No food service equipment to maintain
- More people able to give full attention to spiritual program
- More volunteers available to assist other departments
- More time available for other theocratic pursuits

Suggested Items to Bring for Noon Break

- Light, simple, and nourishing lunch items
- Dried fruits, nuts, baked items, fresh fruit
- Small-size coolers if necessary
- Soft drinks, fruit juices, or bottled water in nonbreakable containers

Do *NOT* Bring Into Convention Facility

- Alcoholic beverages
- Glass containers
- Large family-size picnic coolers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature to be used during **February:** *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* Placements of this book should be followed up with return visits, and efforts should be made to start Bible studies. **March:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. For territory that is covered frequently, any brochure (except the *School* brochure) may be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).
- The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review Society's letters (S-201) of October 1, 1993, and October 1, 1992. Also, see paragraphs 12-20 of the August 1986 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
February 6:	**p. 74, ¶ 1**	**p. 77, ¶ 11**
February 13:	**p. 77, ¶ 12**	**p. 80, ¶ 22**
February 20:	**p. 81, ¶ 23**	**p. 84, ¶ 8**
February 27:	**p. 84, ¶ 9**	**p. 87, ¶ 19**

- The Memorial celebration will be held on Friday, April 14, 1995. Although the talk may start earlier, please remember that the passing of the Memorial bread and wine *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. No meetings other than those for field service are to be held on that date. If your congregation normally has meetings on Friday, you may want to switch those to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available.
- At the conclusion of congregation meetings as well as circuit assembly and special assembly day programs on April 23, 1995, an announcement will be made concerning a special work to get under way with the widespread distribution of a four-page tract containing a timely message. Publishers will be encouraged to give special attention to honesthearted ones who seriously reflect on the perplexing problems facing them and who seek reliable guidance. Every publisher, including new ones who will start out in field service during March, April, and May, will want to participate fully and give support to this special campaign.
- In response to many requests from publishers and interested ones, the Society has prepared a magazine-size brochure entitled *Planned Giving to Benefit Kingdom Service Worldwide.* Those planning to make a special gift now or leave a bequest at death to the Society may find this information helpful, especially if they wish to accomplish some family goal or estate-planning objective while using tax benefits to minimize the cost of the gift or bequest. A copy of the brochure may be obtained by writing or calling Watch Tower Society, Planned Giving Desk, 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204, telephone (914) 878-7000.
- Publishers who wish to serve as auxiliary pioneers in March, April, and May should make their plans now and turn in their application early. This will help the elders to make necessary field service arrangements and have sufficient literature on hand.
- On Saturday, May 13, 1995, the Society's facilities in Brooklyn, Wallkill, and Patterson, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning. Therefore, there will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on that day.
- New Braille Publications Available: **Grade-two English:** *Examining the Scriptures Daily—1995* (four volumes); *Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1995* (one volume).

Mark requests for Braille publications ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK. Include name and address of the person who will use the Braille material.

Show Consideration for Others—Part 2

1 As far as reasonably possible, we want to maintain a good relationship with people who live in our community. This requires that we show consideration and respect for their rights and feelings.

2 Jehovah's Witnesses are known for good manners. Our standards of decorum in the neighborhood, at school, and in the workplace, as well as at our assemblies, have been the subject of many favorable comments. —See the June 15, 1989, *Watchtower,* page 20.

3 Fine conduct, of course, includes many things, such as honesty, diligence, and good morals. It also includes being respectful of residents who live in the area around our Kingdom Hall. Our godly conduct in other respects may be ignored if we fail to be considerate of our neighbors. Paul urged us to "behave in a manner worthy of the good news."—Phil. 1:27.

4 From time to time, complaints have been made by residents living near certain Kingdom Halls because of what they feel is a lack of consideration shown by those attending the meetings. Brothers and sisters should avoid congregating on the sidewalk in front of the Kingdom Hall and carrying on animated conversations that can be heard in nearby homes. Children should not be allowed to run in and out of the Kingdom Hall. Thoughtlessly slamming car doors or blowing horns can disturb the neighborhood. Conduct of this type reflects unfavorably on the congregation. Also, it is important that we observe all traffic regulations when driving in the area.—Rom. 13:1, 2, 5.

5 Cars should not be parked on private property or in places where they obstruct traffic or block driveways. Parking lots maintained by nearby business establishments for their customers should not be used unless permission is given. Where three or four congregations use the same Kingdom Hall, meetings are scheduled virtually every day of the week, and this requires close cooperation between bodies of elders.—See *The Watchtower,* October 1, 1988, page 17, paragraph 13.

6 The Bible urges us to "do all things for God's glory," and that includes showing consideration for outsiders. (1 Cor. 10:31-33) If we 'keep an eye on the personal interests of others,' we will not thoughtlessly intrude on their property. (Phil. 2:4) We will also avoid interfering with business activities of local merchants.

7 Showing consideration for others —both inside and outside the congregation—is an outward expression of what we feel in our hearts. What we do and say should demonstrate that we 'love our neighbors as ourselves.'—Matt. 7:12; 22:39.

Effectively Introducing the *Live Forever* Book

39 35
76 352
3696 3172

¹ Jesus was masterful in his use of introductions. He knew what to say to stimulate interest. On one occasion he initiated a conversation with a Samaritan woman by simply asking her for a drink of water. This immediately captured her attention because 'Jews had no dealings with Samaritans.' The ensuing conversation eventually helped her and many others to become believers. (John 4:7-9, 41) We can learn from his example.

² When preparing to offer the *Live Forever* book, ask yourself, 'What are the immediate concerns of people in our territory? What will appeal to a teenager, an older person, a husband, or a wife?' You could prepare more than one introduction and plan to use the one that seems most fitting for the situation.

³ ***Since the deterioration of family life concerns many, you might say:***

■ "Daily pressures of life have put great strains on families today. Where can they find assistance? [Allow for response.] The Bible can be a real help to us. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.] The Scriptures offer beneficial guidelines that can help families survive. Note what is stated in paragraph 3 on page 238 of this publication, *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.*" Read paragraph 3, and make offer.

⁴ ***If you are using a local news item, you might say:***

■ "Did you hear the news report about [mention item of local concern]? What did you think about that? [Allow for response.] It makes you wonder what this world is coming to, doesn't it? The Bible foretold such things as evidence that we are living in the last days." Then consider information in the *Live Forever* book, pages 150-3.

⁵ ***Many are concerned about the growing crime problem. You could use the first introduction under the heading "Crime/Safety" on page 10 of the "Reasoning" book:***

■ "We are talking with folks about the matter of personal safety. There's a lot of crime around us, and it affects our lives. What do you think it would take for people like you and me to feel safe on the streets at night?" You might read Psalm 37:10, 11 and point out blessings that God's Kingdom will bring, using pages 156-8 of the *Live Forever* book.

⁶ ***If you prefer a simpler approach, you might use an introduction similar to that found at the top of page 12 in the "Reasoning" book:***

■ "We are encouraging our neighbors to consider the grand future that the Bible holds out to us. [Read Revelation 21:3, 4.] Does this sound good to you? [Allow for response.] Chapter 19 of this publication highlights other blessings obedient mankind will experience under God's Kingdom." If there is interest, offer the *Live Forever* book.

⁷ Preparing an effective introduction can help you to reach those hungering for righteousness.—Matt. 5:6.

Follow Up Interest You Found

¹ When working from house to house, we are usually limited in the amount of time we are able to spend with an interested person. In most cases the real teaching work is done when we make return visits and conduct Bible studies. (Matt. 28:19, 20) In order to teach effectively on the return visit, we need to review what we discussed on the first call and then prepare for further discussion.

² ***If you talked about instability of the family arrangement, you might use material in chapter 29 of the "Live Forever" book. You could say:***

■ "Previously we talked about the wisdom of following Bible counsel in order to have a happy family life. What do you feel is the key to unifying families today?" Allow for response. Refer to paragraph 27 on page 247, and read Colossians 3:12-14. Make further comments showing how genuine love can hold families together. Explain how a systematic study of the *Live Forever* book can help solve problems.

³ ***If you discussed deteriorating world conditions on your initial call, you might follow that up by saying:***

■ "I'm sure you will agree that big changes are needed if we're ever going to live in peace. The Bible shows that Satan is the primary cause of our problems. Many wonder why God has permitted him to continue for so long. What do you think?" Allow for response. Turn to page 20, paragraphs 14 and 15, in the *Live Forever* book, and explain why Satan has not yet been destroyed. Then read Romans 16:20, which shows what we can expect in the near future.

⁴ ***If you talked about the blessings that will be realized under Kingdom rule, on your return visit, you could say:***

■ "God's Kingdom will bring wonderful blessings to the earth and mankind. These blessings are well illustrated here on pages 12 and 13. What do you see that appeals to you? [Allow for response.] Think what it would be like to live in a world like this." Read paragraph 12. If there is interest, ask the question on paragraph 13, and discuss the answer. Point out that this chapter answers more questions about Kingdom blessings and that you will be pleased to discuss them on your next visit.

⁵ ***You might be able to start a study by saying:***

■ "Many people have found answers to their Bible questions with the use of this book." Turn to the table of contents, and ask: "Which subject here interests you the most?" Allow for a response, turn to the chapter that caught their interest, and read the first paragraph. Explain how the questions at the bottom of each page highlight the main points in each paragraph. Illustrate by discussing one or two more paragraphs, and then make arrangements to call again.

⁶ Following up interest in the *Live Forever* book demonstrates our desire to accomplish our ministry fully. (2 Tim. 4:5) We may be able to help our hearers to reach out for everlasting life.—John 17:3.

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Our Kingdom Ministry (USPS 295-360) is published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., and International Bible Students Association, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Printed in U.S.A.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 3

Timely *Kingdom News* to Be Distributed Worldwide

Aux Prà

¹ On Sunday, April 23, a special public talk will be delivered on the arresting subject "False Religion's End Is Near." At the conclusion of the meeting that day, a thought-provoking four-page *Kingdom News* will be released. The timely message it contains will be given worldwide distribution during the three-week period from April 24 to May 14.

² In all parts of the world, people are perplexed. No matter where they live, they are plagued by problems. The *Kingdom News* will be of real interest to those who are sincerely concerned about what is happening, since it will direct them to God's Word as the infallible source of guidance for man. (Ps. 119:105) All of us look forward to getting a copy of the *Kingdom News* when it is released on April 23. In the meantime, there is much to do in preparation for this intensive three-week campaign.

³ **Encourage All to Have a Zealous Share:** Who may have a share in the work? Certainly everyone who is already a publisher will be eager to do so! What about Bible students who are regularly attending congregation meetings? Some have associated with us for quite a while and are making steady progress. If they have brought their lives into harmony with Scriptural principles, are they qualified to be counted as Kingdom proclaimers? The publisher conducting the Bible study may discuss the matter with the student, and if the student is desirous of sharing in the field service, two elders will review with him the material on pages 98 and 99 of the book *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry.* This should be done as soon as possible so that those who qualify as unbaptized publishers may have a full share in the campaign. Bible students who are not yet qualified to be counted as unbaptized publishers may still be encouraged to share this timely *Kingdom News* with acquaintances or family members.—See *The Watchtower,* November 15, 1988, page 17, paragraph 8.

⁴ This work is not difficult; everyone can have a share. Parents may include practice sessions with the *Kingdom News* as part of the weekly family Bible study so that all family members will be well prepared to present it from house to house. A simple presentation is usually best. After a brief introduction, offer the *Kingdom News* to the householder, and encourage him to read it. When householders manifest interest, make a record so that you can return to cultivate the interest. (1 Cor. 3:6, 7) The key to success is to have a simple, well-prepared presentation.

⁵ There will be "plenty to do" during April and May. In next month's issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* further information will be provided in the insert entitled "Plenty to Do in the Work of the Lord."—1 Cor. 15:58.

Much Is Given—Much Is Demanded

¹ How favored we are to have the truth! Because of our dedication to Jehovah, we have been "entrusted with the good news." (1 Thess. 2:4) This places us under greater responsibility. Jesus said: "Everyone to whom much was given, much will be demanded of him."—Luke 12:48b.

² How true those words are! Since all of us have been blessed with a knowledge of God's Word, a wonderful association of brothers, and a marvelous hope, it can truthfully be said that much has been given to us. Reasonably, much is expected in return.

³ **Maintain a Proper View of Requirements:** Some have concluded that too much is expected of us. As Head of the Christian congregation, Jesus Christ determines "what is needed" to make it function properly. (Eph. 4:15, 16) He assures us that 'his yoke is kindly and his load is light.' (Matt. 11:28-30) He lovingly makes allowances for those who have limitations. (Luke 21:1-4) If we give our best, regardless of the amount, we will be blessed.—Col. 3:23, 24.

⁴ Ask yourself, 'Are Kingdom interests first in my life? Am I using my time and my assets in a way that results in praise to God's name and benefit to others? Do I find that my greatest pleasure comes from serving Jehovah rather than from selfishly enjoying material things?' Our honest answers to these questions reveal the motives within our hearts.—Luke 6:45.

⁵ **Avoid Being Tempted to Do What Is Bad:** Never before have there been such temptations and pressures toward self-interest, greed, and love of sensual pleasure. Every day we are faced with moral challenges, with temptations to compromise. To meet these challenges successfully, we must ask Jehovah to help us. (Matt. 26:41) Through his spirit, he can make us strong. (Isa. 40:29) Reading God's Word daily is a great help. (Ps. 1:2, 3) Self-discipline and self-control also play a major role.—1 Cor. 9:27.

⁶ It is not enough to love what is good—we must also hate what is bad. (Ps. 97:10) This means not cultivating a yearning for those things that are bad. Proverbs 6:16-19 lists seven things that Jehovah hates. Obviously, one who wants to please Jehovah must also hate such things. Having been blessed with an accurate knowledge of the truth, we should want to act in accord with that knowledge, keeping our minds fixed on good things.

⁷ It is proper to pray for circumstances that are favorable for "always having plenty to do in the work of the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58) Many have found that a busy schedule in Jehovah's service is a protection because it allows little time for pursuing worthless things.

⁸ All things considered, what Jehovah requires of us is very reasonable. (Mic. 6:8) We have every cause to be grateful for each privilege of service. (Eph. 5:20) Therefore, we keep "working hard and exerting ourselves," confident that our reward will be infinitely greater than anything required of us.—1 Tim. 4:10.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR MARCH

Week Starting March 6

Song 25

13 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Discuss Question Box.

15 min: "Much Is Given—Much Is Demanded." Questions and answers. Encourage those who qualify to think about enrolling as auxiliary pioneers during April.

17 min: "Proclaiming 'the Words of the Prophecy.'" Review highlights. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed using or placing the *Revelation Climax* book. Urge all to be positive in offering the book, since it deals with current events that concern everyone. Have one or two presentations demonstrated.

Song 31 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 13

Song 24

10 min: Local announcements. Make brief comment calling attention to box "Reminder for Secretary and Service Overseer." Accounts report.

15 min: "Timely *Kingdom News* to Be Distributed Worldwide." Talk by an elder. Emphasize importance of this upcoming special activity during April and May. Urge all, including new ones, to plan for a full share.

DH **20 min:** "Bethel Service—More Volunteers Needed." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 1-13.

Song 36 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 20

Song 40 WM

15 min: Local announcements. Demonstrate family use of the *1995 Yearbook.* Family group expresses appreciation for the book; father briefly reviews highlights of introductory material on pages 3-11. They discuss how they will try to read a few pages of the *Yearbook* together each week and make sure that each day they give consideration to the designated Bible text in *Examining the Scriptures Daily.*

MS **15 min:** Local needs. Or talk on the article "If You Owe Taxes, Pay Taxes," in *The Watchtower* of November 15, 1994, pages 26-8.

OD **15 min:** "Help Others 'Observe the Things Written.'" Review the main points, and then have one or two return visits demonstrated.

Song 52 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 27

Song 205 CW

5 min: Local announcements.

12 min: "The Most Important Event in Human History." Discuss with audience. Review local arrangements for the Memorial. Explain why we need to invite interested ones and help them to attend.

TT

DM **18 min:** "Bethel Service—More Volunteers Needed." In covering paragraphs 14-18, arrange for a demonstration in which a father is talking to his teenage son about the goal of Bethel service and what the son can do to prepare for it in harmony with the suggestions offered. If there are former or current members of the Bethel family in the congregation, the father may include one or two of these brothers in the discussion with his son. After the demonstration paragraphs 19-23 should be discussed with questions and answers.

GW **10 min:** Offering *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* during April. In frequently worked territory, we may also offer any brochure (except the *School* brochure). Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. Review the following suggestions for offering magazines from house to house: Have a friendly smile. Be enthusiastic. Speak slowly. Discuss only one article in one magazine. Hand the magazines to the householder. Let it be known that you will return with the next issues. Have a positive conclusion if magazines are refused. Keep a record of all interest and placements. In conclusion, demonstrate one or two brief presentations offering current issues of the magazines.

Song 176 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
March 6:	**p. 88, ¶ 20**	**p. 90, ¶ 5**
March 13:	**p. 90, ¶ 6**	**p. 94, ¶ 19**
March 20:	**p. 95, ¶ 20**	**p. 99, ¶ 32**
March 27:	**p. 100, ¶ 1**	**p. 103, ¶ 12**

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**191**	**123.4**	**73.9**	**52.0**	**5.2**
Pios.	**76,064**	**77.7**	**34.5**	**24.0**	**2.4**
Aux. Pios.	**24,946**	**58.4**	**26.4**	**14.6**	**1.3**
Pubs.	**805,898**	**9.9**	**5.9**	**3.7**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**907,099**		Baptized: **2,508**		

QUESTION BOX

■ What attention needs to be given to the equipment we use in the witness work?

[1] Although having an appropriate Scriptural presentation in mind, a publisher of the good news might be unprepared when it comes to the equipment he uses. When at the door, he may not have the current literature offer. The magazines, brochures, and tracts in his witnessing case may be wrinkled or tattered. He may be unable to find a pencil or a house-to-house record because his case is not properly organized. It is important to give careful attention to your equipment before sharing in field service.

[2] What items should a well-equipped witnessing case contain? A Bible is essential. Include a supply of house-to-house records. Be sure that you have the publication that is being featured for the month. Current issues of the magazines, as well as tracts and brochures, are also needed. Carry a copy of the *Reasoning* book. Having the latest *Our Kingdom Ministry* will allow you to review suggested presentations before going to the door. When working in territory where you are likely to meet people who speak a foreign language, it would be good to have the booklet *Good News for All Nations.* Having a copy of one of our publications designed for young people will help you to be prepared to speak to teenagers.

[3] Everything used should be neatly arranged in your case. The case itself does not have to be new, but it should be clean and in good condition. Your witnessing case is part of your equipment for use in declaring the good news. Keep it in good order.

Bethel Service—More Volunteers Needed

[1] We are thrilled to see the great work that Jehovah is doing in these last days. Psalm 110:3 indicates that during this time an outstanding quality of God's people would be their willingness to have an active share in Kingdom service. Around the earth Jehovah's people are expending themselves to get the good news of the Kingdom preached. The *Proclaimers* book, page 295, states: "Some serve as members of the global Bethel family. This is a staff of full-time ministers who have volunteered to do whatever they may be assigned in preparing and publishing Bible literature, in caring for necessary office work, and in providing support services for such operations. This is not work in which they gain personal prominence or material possessions. Their desire is to honor Jehovah, and they are satisfied with the provisions made for them in the way of food, lodging, and a modest reimbursement for personal expenses." If you have visited Bethel, you are to some extent already acquainted with the work being done there. However, we wish to provide additional information to enhance your appreciation for this unique privilege of service and also to make you aware of the Society's needs.

[2] To put into perspective the significance of Bethel service and its rich heritage, let us review a bit of history—some ancient and some modern—of Jehovah's organization. For some 19 years, the Watch Tower Society had its headquarters in a four-story brick building at 56-60 Arch Street, Allegheny, Pennsylvania. It was called the Bible House. However, by 1908, the Bible House family, or the Society's headquarters staff, had grown to over 30 members. It was time to expand. After seeking divine guidance, the brothers decided that Brooklyn would be the most suitable center for the work. So a building at 13-17 Hicks Street in Brooklyn was purchased to house the Society's offices and an auditorium. These offices were opened on January 31, 1909, but there were no housing accommodations as part of this Hicks Street building. At first, it was thought that housing facilities could be rented. However, none of the residences in the Brooklyn Heights area were for rent. As things turned out, to their surprise and joy, the brothers were able to purchase "at a bargain price" a four-story brownstone at 124 Columbia Heights, the former residence of Henry Ward Beecher. Also, 126 Columbia Heights became available. The March 1, 1909, *Watch Tower* joyfully announced: "The new home we shall call Bethel," supplanting the Pittsburgh term "Bible House." So in April 1909, Bethel opened its doors, and the family moved into its new home. Brooklyn Bethel has been in this same location for 85 years.

[3] Was Bethel an appropriate name for the Society's headquarters? Consider the Biblical origin of the name and its connections. Going back over 3,700 years, Genesis chapter 28 relates the experience of 77-year-old, unmarried Jacob. Jacob appreciated sacred things but was hated by his twin brother, Esau. At the direction of Isaac, his father, Jacob fled from Beer-sheba and headed north to the land of Abraham's relatives, among whom Jacob intended to find a wife. After traveling some 62 miles, Jacob stopped to rest for the night at a place called Luz in the Judean hills. At Genesis 28:10-19, we read the fascinating details of how Jehovah gave Jacob full assurance of divine support. In a dream, Jacob saw a ladder extending from earth to heaven. Angels were busily ascending and descending the ladder, and Jehovah was stationed above it. Then Jehovah spoke, confirming that the promise to Abraham regarding a seed was being passed on to Jacob and that Jehovah would not leave him. What a fear-inspiring experience for spiritually-minded Jacob! Is it any wonder that this became a very special place in his eyes? To him this place was the "house of God," or, in the Hebrew language, *Behth-'El'*, *Behth* meaning "house" and *'El* meaning "God." —Gen. 28:19, ftn.

[4] Thus, the name Bethel has a rich historical background and is appropriate for the world headquarters of Jehovah's people. Today God's servants do not have divinely inspired dreams. Angels are not seen ascending and descending on a ladder from Bethel to heaven. Brothers are not receiving visions or hearing God's voice directly. Yet, when you consider all that has happened at Bethel these past 85 years, from the time of Brother Russell till now, there is no doubt that Jehovah's hand has been with his anointed servants, part of the spiritual seed of Abraham, at Bethel. So many outstanding events in the history of Jehovah's modern-day Witnesses are closely associated with Bethel! Consider some highlights:

- On October 2, 1914, as he entered the Bethel dining room, Brother Russell accurately announced: "The Gentile Times have ended; their kings have had their day."
- In the early 1920's, during morning worship, a member of the Society's editorial staff used the expression "God's organization." This so stimulated their thinking that by 1925 the brothers had

come to see that there are two distinct and opposing organizations, Jehovah's and Satan's.—*w*85 3/15 p. 10.

■ In the early morning hours one day in 1931, shortly before the convention in Columbus, Ohio, the president of the Society, Brother Rutherford, discerned that the name Jehovah's Witnesses truly described God's people and the work they were already doing and that they should be identified as His witnesses.—*yb*75 p. 151.

■ Early in 1935, questions were raised about who are the "great crowd," or "great multitude." (Rev. 7:9; *KJ*) Some among those who expressed themselves at that time suggested that they were an earthly class. On May 31, 1935, at the Washington, D.C., convention, a satisfying explanation was given.—*jv* p. 166.

5 These few examples illustrate how Jehovah, through his holy spirit, has given guidance and support to his faithful anointed servants at Bethel. And what about the angels? When you consider all the bitter opposition from our enemies and the difficult years when resources were scarce, there is no doubt that without angelic protection and assistance, Bethel could not have operated so remarkably all these years.

6 Besides the headquarters staff in the United States, there are Bethel families in the 100 branches scattered throughout the world. *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry,* page 116, states: "The name Bethel . . . is certainly appropriate for these centers of theocratic activity." What kind of work are Bethel volunteers assigned to do?

7 **A Variety of Work:** The assignments of work given to members of the Bethel family are varied. At Brooklyn and in a number of other branches, some brothers work in the factory operating presses that print Bibles, books, magazines, brochures, and tracts for worldwide distribution. Others share in binding the Bibles and books, while the work of yet others involves shipping these publications to congregations around the world. A number are assigned to maintain the equipment and the buildings. In the Bethel Home, a lot of work is involved in caring for the family. For example, at Brooklyn Bethel, within 20 minutes breakfast is served to approximately 3,700 people in 12 dining rooms. In the laundry, brothers and sisters process 35,000 pounds of clothing each week, including 13,000 shirts. In addition, housekeepers maintain a high standard of cleanliness in the 21 residence buildings in Brooklyn and care for a host of other vital duties.

8 **Qualifications and Requirements:** In view of the physical stamina and strength required for much of this work, presently there is a need for healthy single young men. To apply for Bethel service, a young man must be dedicated and baptized for at least a year. He must be a devoted, spiritual person. Also, he must be willing to perform hard work. In the world today, many people view hard work as something to be avoided. So the young man applying for Bethel service needs to put on the new personality to such an extent that he wants to do hard work, doing with his hands what is good work. (Compare Ephesians 4:28.) That means that he should not be one who has his mind on the pursuit of personal pleasures, recreation, or entertainment. When considering Bethel service, he should already have put aside such youthful traits. Paul's words at 1 Corinthians 13:11 well apply: "When I was a babe, I used to speak as a babe, to think as a babe, to reason as a babe; but now that I have become a man, I have done away with the traits of a babe."

9 Are you between the ages of 19 and 35? Do you enjoy good health, physically and emotionally? Can you read, write, and speak English well? Are you a spiritual person who has a deep love for Jehovah and his organization? If called to Bethel, would you remain faithfully in that service for at least one year, working at any job given you? If you can answer yes to these questions, you do well to consider the unique privilege of Bethel service. The blessings are abundant.

10 **Blessings of Bethel Service:** The article "Looking With Appreciation Upon the 'House of God,'" in *The Watchtower* of June 15, 1994, noted: "When attending an assembly, do you sense a deep contentment, surrounded as you are by happy worshipers of Jehovah? Just imagine, a Bethel worker has the privilege of serving Jehovah amid a group of brothers every day! (Psalm 26:12) What excellent prospects for spiritual growth that offers! A brother remarked that he learned more to help him shape his personality within one year at Bethel than he did in three years elsewhere. Why? Because nowhere else did he have the opportunity to observe and imitate the faith of so many mature Christian personalities." (Prov. 13:20) Indeed, this is one of the unique blessings of Bethel service.

11 At Brooklyn Bethel, volunteers enjoy close association with members of the Governing Body and other anointed ones, as well as with longtime faithful brothers of the other sheep class. No matter what assignment of work one has, it is a blessing to work in unity with such faithful, loyal companions. Here are some comments from members of the Brooklyn Bethel family that reflect the feelings of those who have a part in this precious privilege of service:

■ A brother with 62 years of Bethel service, who has worked in a variety of assignments over the years, commented on the spirit that exists at Bethel: "We're all one family; we're all brothers. We work together. All of us have our assignments.

It's wonderful to see the brothers work hard; you can see the effort they put forth. We have brothers who sweep the floor. When you're keeping the place clean, you're keeping the family healthy. When you keep the family healthy, the family is productive. It's essential. It's important to have people in the office. All together we produce the result—the Kingdom witness worldwide. This is the best place in the world to make a career of serving Jehovah. If you want to be in the full-time service, you can do that best right here. Everything is available to you. We enjoy extra things here. It makes you see the organization because you hear from all corners of the earth."

- One 75-year-old anointed brother, whose first work assignment was in the bookbindery some 48 years ago, observed: "It's a beautiful experience to live among dedicated, baptized servants of Jehovah. When I see a young man coming to Bethel, my heart wells up with thanks to Jehovah because I know this man is going to have a happy life here at Bethel." Regarding things he treasures about Bethel, he added: "I love its people. I think they are beautiful. There is something about the brothers that have been at Bethel many years that you don't find any place else on the face of the earth. There is the warmth, understanding, and unity that is beyond understanding."
- Another brother who has been in Bethel service for over 62 years commented on further benefits received: "Coming to Bethel enables you to get a specialized education in the field of publishing . . . and above all, a Bible education to equip you to be a proper representative of Jehovah God wherever you're sent in the world."
- A member of the Governing Body, who is now 92 years old, has been serving at Bethel for 58 years. What does he think of Bethel service? "The Bethel family here and worldwide is a marvelous arrangement of devoted people."
- Some months before a member of the Governing Body died faithful in his assignment at 98 years of age, he expressed himself this way: "I love to serve at Bethel. It is the best place under the sun."
- What is a young man's view of Bethel service? One young brother recently wrote: "Since, as Jesus said, 'giving reaps the greater happiness,' Bethel is the happiest place I have ever been." He has captured the spirit of Bethel—giving.
- A brother who has 51 years of full-time service nicely summed things up by saying: "Bethel service is really unique. It is a vital part in the outworking of Jehovah's purpose here upon the earth. So anyone who has the privilege of serving at Bethel should esteem that very highly. Really, Bethel enables us to give full expression to a life of godly devotion."

12 **The Daily Routine:** The daily routine of a member of the Bethel family totally absorbs him in a life of Kingdom activity. At 7:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, morning worship begins in our dining rooms. There are comments on the day's text by members of the family and then a summary by a member of the Governing Body or by another brother with many years of full-time service, followed by the morning prayer. This program strengthens the family spiritually for the day's activity. Members of the Bethel family will tell you that it is a highlight of the day. After a hearty breakfast, Bethel family members eagerly go to their various assignments of work. The workday Monday through Friday extends from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with one hour set aside for the noonday meal. Work is also scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. on Saturday. In the evenings, on Saturday afternoons, and on Sundays, Bethelites go to their congregation meetings, share in the house-to-house or Bible study activity, or care for personal responsibilities. They may use the Bethel library facilities for personal study or to prepare for meetings. Oh, yes, there is time for needed rest and relaxation. (Mark 6:31, 34) From this brief description, it can easily be seen that Bethel service allows a person to devote a great amount of his time each day to sacred service, free from distractions of this old system of things.

13 **Congregation Activities:** Members of the Brooklyn Bethel family are assigned to more than 350 congregations in the New York City area. They value the role of the local congregation in maintaining their spirituality. Thus, they are active with their congregation, attending the five meetings and regularly sharing in the field ministry with their brothers. In addition to congregation meetings, the Bethel family has its own *Watchtower* Study on Monday evening; elders and ministerial servants are assigned to make comments for the benefit of all. Since the Bethel schedule emphasizes spiritual things, it results in a joyful, happy life of service to Jehovah.—1 Cor. 15:58.

14 **Preparation for Bethel Service:** Young men frequently ask what they can do in order to prepare for Bethel service. A member of the Governing Body serving on the Personnel Committee said: "When you come to Bethel, come to serve, not to be served. The more you learn to serve, the greater will be your happiness. Learn to give and not to take. Be modest, be humble. The fruitage of the spirit—that's where real Christianity lies." Yes, developing your spirituality and a close relationship with Jehovah are keys to success at Bethel. That is why pioneers are often chosen when new volunteers are selected for Bethel. When a person has disciplined himself over a period of time to spend 90 hours a

month preaching and teaching and giving to others, as well as scheduling necessary work to sustain himself, he has built a good spiritual foundation for Bethel service and its orderly way of life. Please note, however, that Bethel service is not limited to those who are pioneering. Anyone meeting the basic requirements can apply.

[15] Additionally, it is good for young men to learn how to work with their hands. Manual labor is not looked upon with favor in this old system of things. Love of self motivates many people to desire work that requires little effort or that gives an outward appearance of prestige. Yet, knowing how to use various tools and devices is very practical and useful. (Prov. 22:29) Often, young men can learn manual skills from their parents or by helping experienced older men work on various projects around the Kingdom Hall or by assisting elderly ones with necessary maintenance of their homes.

[16] Sometimes young ones ask: "Should I get extra secular training to qualify for Bethel service?" Secular training, in itself, does not qualify a person for Bethel service. Spiritual qualities are all-important and required of all who are invited. We encourage parents and their children who are still of school age to consider carefully the balanced view of secular education that is presented in *The Watchtower* of November 1, 1992, pages 15 to 21. A decision on secular education is a personal matter. Whatever a person decides, he should make sure that he is able to maintain his spiritual progress by continuing to focus on the principal work of Jehovah's people, bearing witness to the truth.

[17] No matter what kind of secular training one receives, it is highly valuable to learn how to think. The Bible commends thinking ability and practical wisdom. (Prov. 1:4; 3:21) Learning how to think and retain information enables you to acquire knowledge and skills that will be useful to you and to Jehovah's worldwide organization. Finally, no matter what skills one may have, it is very important to be able to get along well with others. Bethel volunteers must work closely together as a team to accomplish the work. Thus, an independent or competitive spirit must be replaced by a cooperative and loving disposition and a willingness to submit to theocratic direction.—Compare Ephesians 4:16.

[18] Young people in Jehovah's organization have a wonderful opportunity to work at developing the abilities mentioned above. Then, if invited to serve at Bethel, they will be in a good position to be trained by Jehovah's organization for further responsibilities. We urge you Christian parents and elders to continue keeping this matter before young ones. Many parents bring their children to tour Bethel regularly, thus acquainting them with what is done here. This has led many to come to Bethel after finishing their education.

[19] **Experienced Ones:** Occasionally there is an opening for a brother or a sister who is somewhat over the age of 35 and who has the training and skills that Bethel needs. Much of the work that the Society is presently engaged in requires experienced ones to serve along with strong, capable young men who can be trained, "the expert along with the learner."—1 Chron. 25:8.

[20] An increasing amount of today's work calls for those who have a background in electronics or experience with computer programming. The Society has literally scores of photocopy machines, laser printers, and personal computers, all of which require maintenance. There is also a need in the legal and medical fields: attorneys, doctors, physical therapists, registered and licensed practical nurses. Those skilled in various construction trades, such as engineering, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning), can be used. Mature brothers with in-depth accounting background, particularly those who might be certified, could be helpful. In order to reduce costs, the Society has its own fleet of vehicles used for supporting shipping operations. Therefore, experienced drivers and mechanics are needed.

[21] Our greatest need is for dedicated single brothers and for those with special skills, some of whom may be married. You may obtain Bethel applications from your circuit overseer or at a district convention at the special meeting held for those interested in Bethel service, or you may write to the Personnel Committee, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. If you are married, keep in mind that your mate must also be spiritually, emotionally, and physically qualified for Bethel service. If you have training and experience in one of the fields previously mentioned, please write out a detailed résumé and attach it to your Bethel application.

[22] **Can You Answer an Urgent Call?** An urgent need exists for Bethel volunteers. If you meet the requirements for Bethel service, we strongly urge you to submit a Bethel application in answer to this urgent call. Do not be discouraged if you are not invited right away. You can renew your application yearly. This provides us with current information about your availability.

[23] In the hearing of the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah asked: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Without hesitation Isaiah responded: "Here I am! Send me." Thus, Isaiah embarked on a remarkable career as God's prophet. Can you say, "Here I am! Send me"? Many blessings await you if you are called to serve in the "House of God," Bethel.—Isa. 6:8.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature to be used during **March:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. For territory that is covered frequently, any brochure (except the *School* brochure) may be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **June:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to congregation when this has been done.

- New Publications Available:

Albanian: *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Arabic:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Chinese:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Croatian:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Czech:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Danish:** *Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1990; When Someone You Love Dies.* **Dutch:** *Watch Tower Publications Index 1946-1985; When Someone You Love Dies.* **Finnish:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **French:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **German:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Greek:** *Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1990; When Someone You Love Dies.* **Hungarian:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Italian:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Japanese:** *Insight on the Scriptures; When Someone You Love Dies.* **Korean:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Latvian:** *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* (Large size). **Lithuanian:** *Does God Really Care About Us?; You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* (Large size). **Macedonian:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Polish:** *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures; When Someone You Love Dies.* **Portuguese:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Romanian:** *When Someone You Love Dies.* **Vietnamese:** *When Someone You Love Dies.*

- New Videocassettes Available:

English for the Deaf: *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* (Videocassette No. 1). **Greek:** *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy.* **Polish:** *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name.*

Reminder for Secretary and Service Overseer

Each year an announcement in the February issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* directs the secretary and the service overseer to "review the activity of all regular pioneers." What is the purpose of this review? It is to determine who may need help to meet the hour requirement before the service year ends.

Regular pioneers are required to devote 1,000 hours each year to the ministry. By the end of February, some pioneers find that they have fallen behind, and this can lead to discouragement. The elders can often be helpful to pioneers, giving them encouragement and practical suggestions. This can make the difference between pioneers successfully meeting their requirements for the year or dropping off the list.

The pioneers will certainly appreciate the genuine concern of the elders in this regard. The congregation will also benefit by having pioneers who are happy in their ministry, faithfully sticking to their assignment.

The Most Important Event in Human History

[1] Jesus came to the earth at the direction of his Father to bear witness to the truth that would lead us to everlasting life. (John 18:37) His faithfulness until death brought honor to Jehovah, sanctified God's name, and provided a ransom. (John 17:4, 6) This is what made Jesus' death the most important event in all human history.

[2] Since the creation of Adam, there have been only two perfect men who have lived upon this earth. Adam was in a position to bring marvelous blessings to his unborn offspring. Instead, he selfishly rebelled, condemning them to a miserable existence that would end in death. When Jesus came, he displayed perfect loyalty and obedience, opening up the opportunity for everlasting life to all who exercise faith.—John 3:16; Rom. 5:12.

[3] No other event can compare with Jesus' sacrificial death. It changed the course of human history. It provided the basis for resurrecting billions of people from the dead. It laid the foundation for an everlasting Kingdom that would bring an end to wickedness and make the earth a paradise. It will ultimately free all mankind from every form of oppression and enslavement.—Ps. 37:11; Acts 24:15; Rom. 8:21, 22.

[4] All of this helps us to appreciate why Jesus instructed his disciples to commemorate his death with the Memorial observance each year. (Luke 22:19) Appreciating its significance, we look forward to assembling with congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide after sundown on Friday, April 14. Before that time, it would be good to read together as a family the Bible accounts of Jesus' last days on earth and his courageous stand for the truth. (Recommended passages are noted on our *1995 Calendar*, April 9-14.) He set a pattern for us in devotion to our Creator. (1 Pet. 2:21) Let us do our utmost to invite our friends and family, as well as Bible students and other interested persons, to this important gathering. Explain beforehand what will take place and the significance of the emblems.—1 Cor. 11:23-26.

[5] The elders should plan well in advance to be sure that the Kingdom Hall is neat and clean. Arrangements should be made for someone to obtain the emblems. The serving of the emblems should be well organized. Helpful suggestions on how we can show respect for the Lord's Evening Meal were given in *The Watchtower* of February 15, 1985, page 19. It would be quite fitting for the congregation to arrange for expanded field service activities during several days before the observance as well as a few days following it.

[6] Last year, a total of 12,288,917 were in attendance worldwide for the commemoration of this important event. Since it is the most important day on our calendar, *all* of us should be present.

Proclaiming 'the Words of the Prophecy'

1 We are living in a time when prophecies in the book of Revelation are being fulfilled. Many are seeking to understand the meaning of the disturbing events taking place. They can benefit from 'hearing the words' of the prophecy of Revelation. (Rev. 1:3) During the month of March, we have opportunity to assist them by featuring the *Revelation Climax* book. When offering it we should keep in mind that the problems facing mankind today were foretold in the book of Revelation. What, then, can we say?

2 ***This approach might be effective:***

■ "War, famine, and disease have plagued mankind in this 20th century. Why do you think that is so when man has made so much technical advancement? [Allow for response.] Many are surprised to learn that these conditions were foretold in the Bible. Likely you are familiar with the expression 'the four horsemen of the Apocalypse.' What the Bible says about these horsemen is actually a prophecy that is being fulfilled in world events today. [Open the *Revelation Climax* book to chapter 16, and point out the illustrations on pages 91-7.] While this prophecy predicts a time of great distress, it also offers hope. [Read Revelation 6:2 in paragraph 3.] The Rider on the white horse is Jesus Christ. He has promised to conquer wickedness and bring about a world of happiness and peace through the Kingdom that he taught us to pray for." Offer the book.

3 ***Perhaps this question might prompt a meaningful discussion:***

■ "What do you feel is needed to remove the bad conditions in the world? [Allow for response.] Most people agree that there is a need for drastic changes if this world is going to survive. The Bible shows that God knows how to solve our problems and has promised to help us." Turn to the *Revelation Climax* book, page 171, and read Revelation 11:15 in paragraph 1. Turn to the illustrations on pages 302 and 308, and point out the blessings that will be realized under Kingdom rule by Christ. Then explain how the householder can personally benefit.

4 ***You might feel comfortable saying something like this:***

■ "Many people who have read the Bible book of Revelation found it difficult to understand. It describes a variety of unusual and significant events. This book, *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, provides a verse-by-verse consideration of the entire book of Revelation and shows how we are personally affected by the fulfillment of its prophecies." Open the book to page 15, paragraph 2, and point out Revelation 1:1, in bold type. Explain that specific comments of this kind are provided on every single verse in the book of Revelation and that this information will help him to understand these remarkable prophecies. Offer to leave the book if there is a favorable response.

5 If the person is busy or you are not certain there is sufficient interest, you might leave a magazine or a tract. When you return and interest is shown, the book could be offered.

6 The message contained in Revelation affects all mankind. Everyone needs to hear the words of the prophecy. May we do all we can to proclaim this vital message.

Help Others "Observe the Things Written"

1 It is not enough to "hear" the words of the prophecies in the book of Revelation. To benefit fully, one must "observe" what is written. (Rev. 1:3) Placing literature is just an initial step toward making disciples. Once we have found interested ones who are willing to hear, we should go back promptly to assist them in learning more. What can we talk about on our return visit?

2 ***If you spoke about the symbolic four horsemen on your initial visit, you might begin your conversation this way:***

■ "Previously we talked about the book of Revelation and how its prophecies are being fulfilled today in world events. Revelation chapter 6 foretold the ride of the symbolic four horsemen, which would result in much violence and distress in the earth. We have seen this take place right before our eyes. Many wonder when this distress will end so that we can enjoy life in a peaceful world. What is your opinion? [Allow for response.] Jesus' disciples were interested in the answer to this question." Read Matthew 24:3, where the question is raised, and then verse 34, where Jesus gave the answer. If the response is positive, explain more about the last days.

3 ***If you discussed God's Kingdom on the first call, you may decide to continue by asking this question:***

■ "In your opinion, what kind of government is needed to satisfy all mankind's needs? [Allow for response. Read Jeremiah 10:23.] As you can see, God never intended that man should direct his own affairs. Attempts to do that without God's help are the cause of most of our problems. God's Kingdom is the only government that can provide what we need." Turn to page 230 in the *Reasoning* book, and discuss the scriptures under the first subheading. Continue the discussion by explaining why we can put our full trust in God.

4 ***You might like to try this to initiate a Scriptural discussion:***

■ Show the illustration on page 302 of the *Revelation Climax* book, and explain: "Mankind will enjoy these conditions when God's will is done on the earth as it is in heaven. However, some fear that bad conditions will come back again. That will be impossible because all the wicked ones will be gone." Read Psalm 37:10, 11. Invite the householder to take advantage of our Bible study program to learn more.

5 ***If you left the tract "Life in a Peaceful New World," point to the illustration on the front and then read paragraph 1 under the heading "Life in God's New World." Then say:***

■ "If we want to live in a world like that, there is something important that we must do." Read the last paragraph, and offer the *Revelation Climax* book.

6 Since our objective is to start Bible studies, we need to make effective return visits. Schedule time for them, and prepare well. In this way we can truly help the honesthearted. —Rev. 22:6, 7.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 4

Thankful for What We Have

1 "God recommends his own love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) How thankful all of us should be for the supreme sacrifice made both by Jehovah God and by his Son in our behalf! By means of Christ's shed blood, we are given the opportunity for everlasting life, something that no human can give us.

2 How can we show our appreciation? There are many people who are thirsting for true knowledge, which can only be found in God's Sacred Word. It is Jehovah's will that they come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:4) We show our appreciation for the truth by 'declaring the good news of the Kingdom of God.' (Luke 4:43) Wholehearted participation in this work shows that we appreciate that Christ died for us and that we want to imitate him by faithfully obeying his command to make disciples of others.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

3 What are some avenues of preaching open to us? Is it possible for us to enroll as auxiliary pioneers from time to time? After counting the cost, some may be able to take up the regular pioneer service. By taking advantage of these fine opportunities, we can increase the amount of time we spend in spreading the Kingdom good news. In times past you may have considered enrolling, but there were obstacles. Perhaps your circumstances have changed. If so, have you given serious thought to entering the pioneer service or serving as an auxiliary pioneer?

4 Our thankfulness becomes more intense when we look at what is taking place around us. There is increasing violence, hatred, and strife worldwide. Paul well described our times as "critical" and "hard to deal with." (2 Tim. 3:1) In the midst of these distressing conditions, we have good news in abundance to share with others. We have two fine magazines, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* This month we can offer individual copies or subscriptions. We also have brochures on a number of subjects. These publications can bring genuine refreshment to those who read them. Thankfulness for what we have should move us to be liberal in sharing them with others. —Heb. 13:16.

5 It may be that in the area where you live, people demonstrate little interest in spiritual things. In contrast with that, there are territories that are fruitful. Much interest is being found among foreign-language groups. If you are able to speak more than one language, is it possible that you can serve in an area in this country where there is a real need for your help? Your circuit overseer may have some suggestions along these lines.

6 There is every reason to be thankful for what we have, truly an abundance of good things. Our thanks to Jehovah can be best expressed by making known his name and purposes to others.—Isa. 12:4, 5.

Maintaining Our Kingdom Unity

1 God's Kingdom is a real government, having power and authority. It was the theme of Jesus' preaching. (Matt. 4:17) Teaching others and bearing witness to Kingdom truth was the main part of Jesus' ministry. He taught us to pray for the Kingdom and to keep on seeking it first. (Matt. 6:9, 10, 33) Remaining close to Jehovah and his organization, fulfilling our preaching commission, and keeping separate from the world enable us to maintain our Kingdom unity. By our actions and words, we show that we are on the side of the Kingdom. —John 18:37.

2 Since 1914, the Kingdom has become a reality for millions of subjects. The unity demonstrated by these subjects of the Kingdom stands in stark contrast to a divided world. We must make the Kingdom real in our lives if it is to be a unifying force. What makes it real to us?

3 Like other governments, the Kingdom has a set of laws. Yet, it differs in that its laws are found in the Bible. ① Regular reading of God's Word gives us needed reminders of what is required of us as Kingdom subjects. ② Personal study of our publications and direction from "the faithful and discreet slave" help us apply God's laws in our everyday lives. (Matt. 24:45) As we make such ③ personal application, the Kingdom becomes increasingly real to us, drawing us closer together in the worldwide brotherhood, making us a united family of worshipers under Jesus' rulership.

4 **Unity Through Kingdom Preaching:** Our commission is to preach the good news of the Kingdom "to the most distant part of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Preaching "with one accord" unifies us as we strive to "glorify" Jehovah. (Rom. 15:5, 6) Zealously participating with our fellow workers earth wide strengthens our faith and permits Jehovah's spirit to work through us to accomplish his will. "Having plenty to do in the work of the Lord" makes us "steadfast, unmovable." —1 Cor. 15:58.— ?

5 In many lands Satan tries to disrupt our unity by interfering with our preaching work. He uses every means at his disposal to sow discord and create misunderstandings, to try to produce contention and strife. (Prov. 6:19; Gal. 5:19-21, 26) He would like us to get involved in the world's controversies and even to take sides on political and social issues. (Jas. 3:14-16) The Scriptures exhort us to resist his influence; otherwise, he will devour us as his prey. (1 Pet. 5:8, 9) The reality of the Kingdom hope must not be allowed to fade from our hearts and minds.

How far is message to go?

what is Satan doing?

what do...

6 Maintaining our unity requires soundness of mind and wisdom from above. When difficulties arise, especially if they involve our brothers, we must manifest the fruitage of the spirit to keep peace. Worldly traits, such as pride, envy, and egotism, are divisive and must be overcome. (Eph. 4:1-3; Col. 3:5-10, 12-14) We need to keep our minds filled with positive, upbuilding thoughts. The Kingdom is a reality in our lives! But we have to be vigilant to keep it that way!—Eph. 6: 11, 13.

Prov 18.22

7 The reality of our marvelous Kingdom hope unites us in a spirit of oneness that will never end.—Ps. 133:1.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR APRIL

1 Cor 15:58

Week Starting April 3

Song 203

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Review "Get Things Ready for the Memorial."

15 min: "Thankful for What We Have." Questions and answers. As time permits, make additional comments based on August 1, 1990, *Watchtower*, pages 19-20, paragraphs 15-20.

20 min: "*The Watchtower* and *Awake!*—Magazines for Our Urgent Times!" Discuss with audience. Relate experience expressing appreciation for the magazines. (*g*91 7/22 p. 9) Have two publishers show how to prepare a presentation using the suggestions given, and then have them demonstrate by giving their presentations to each other.

Song 219 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 10

Song 212

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Theocratic News. Remind everyone about the need to help interested ones to attend the Memorial. Urge all to make a special effort to share in field service this weekend.

15 min: "Maintaining Our Kingdom Unity." Discuss with audience.

OD

20 min: "Plenty to Do in the Work of the Lord." Question-and-answer coverage by the service overseer. Review expanded arrangements for house-to-house distribution of the special *Kingdom News*. Discuss plans for covering all the local congregation's assigned territory. Explain what should be done to help new ones to share in service for the first time. (See the March 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 1.)

Song 150 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 17

Song 214 GW

13 min: Local announcements. Relate encouraging highlights of the Memorial observance, and review ways that further assistance can be given to new ones who attended. Urge all to attend the special talk on April 23 and also to help newly interested ones to return. Review field service arrangements for *Kingdom News* distribution.

DH

15 min: "Do You See a Need?" Questions and answers. Briefly relate current goals elders are trying to achieve in their shepherding work. Explain what individuals can do to help.

WM

17 min: "Search for the Teachable Ones." Discuss the importance of making return visits. Encourage use of the Bible. Have one or two presentations briefly demonstrated.

Song 197 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 24

Song 167 LF

15 min: Local announcements. Review progress of *Kingdom News* distribution in the territory. Invite publishers to relate experiences enjoyed offering the *Kingdom News*. Suggest magazine presentations that would be appropriate in local territory. Announce any arrangements for the congregation to share in evening witnessing as daylight hours increase.

MS

12 min: Local needs. Or give a talk, Be Encouraging to Others, based on the January 15, 1995, *Watchtower*, pages 21-3.

18 min: Conduct Your Family Study Regularly. Husband and wife express concern about a lack of spiritual progress on the part of their children. Husband acknowledges that he has been negligent when it comes to conducting the family study; sometimes several weeks go by without any family instruction. They review the admonition and direction provided in the *School Guidebook*, pages 37-8, paragraphs 12-14. Both agree to give priority to the family study each week, not allowing other activities to interfere.

Song 142 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
April 3:	**p. 103, ¶13**	**p. 107, ¶9**
April 10:	**p. 107, ¶10**	**p. 110, ¶20**
April 17:	**p. 110, ¶21**	**p. 112, ¶30**
April 24:	**p. 113, ¶1**	**p. 117, ¶13**

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**173**	**124.1**	**69.8**	**54.4**	**5.5**
Pios.	**75,441**	**77.0**	**32.5**	**24.9**	**2.5**
Aux. Pios.	**20,472**	**58.3**	**24.9**	**16.1**	**1.4**
Pubs.	**808,595**	**9.7**	**5.5**	**3.7**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**904,681**		Baptized: **2,721**		

THEOCRATIC NEWS

Central African Republic: Service activity during the month of October was outstanding, with a new peak of 1,846 publishers. Special assembly day programs were presented in 19 locations, with a total of 5,577 in attendance and 32 baptized.

Mexico: In November, 411,292 publishers reported. This was another new peak.

Sri Lanka: There were 1,873 publishers reporting in November, a fine increase of 9 percent.

Taiwan: Besides a peak of 2,523 publishers, the November report showed a new peak of 44,514 return visits and 4,234 Bible studies.

Virgin Islands (U.S.): A new peak of 647 publishers along with a total of 778 Bible studies brought great rejoicing in November.

Get Things Ready for the Memorial

Has everyone, including the speaker, been informed of the exact time and place of the celebration? Is the speaker aware that the program should not exceed 45 minutes?

Has someone been assigned to obtain the emblems? (See *The Watchtower* of February 15, 1990, pages 16-18.) Have arrangements been made for the table to be set with a clean tablecloth and a sufficient number of glasses and plates?

Have plans been made to clean the Kingdom Hall beforehand and afterward? Have the attendants and servers been assigned? Has a meeting been held with them to go over their duties? What procedure will be followed to ensure that all are served efficiently?

Have arrangements been made to help older and infirm brothers and sisters to attend? If there are any of the anointed who may be confined and unable to be present, have preparations been made for them to be served?

"Plenty to Do in the Work of the Lord"

1 We certainly have a full schedule of theocratic activities to look forward to during April and May! On April 14 we will celebrate the Memorial of Christ's death. As many people as possible should be encouraged to be present for that important occasion: business acquaintances, unbelieving relatives, schoolmates, newly interested persons, and Bible students. Make a list of those you plan to invite so that none are missed.

2 The following week we will encourage all who attended the Memorial to hear the special public talk on April 23, on the subject "False Religion's End Is Near." It is hoped that many interested ones who hear this forthright message will see the need to associate with the congregation on a regular basis, not just on special occasions.

3 **Special *Kingdom News* to Be Released:** A highlight of the meeting on April 23 will be the release of a timely four-page *Kingdom News* No. 34 that will be given wide distribution through May 14. Do you not agree that there will be "plenty to do in the work of the Lord" during this Memorial season?—1 Cor. 15:58.

4 A supply of *Kingdom News* will be consigned to each congregation. The cartons containing the *Kingdom News* should be stored in a safe place and should not be opened until the conclusion of the program on April 23. At that time the *Kingdom News* will become available for distribution to the brothers and to the public. At the conclusion of the congregation meetings, circuit assemblies, or special assembly day programs on April 23, those in attendance will each receive a copy so that they can become acquainted with its contents and be equipped for its distribution.

5 **Elders Will Have Plenty to Do:** Early this month the body of elders should meet to discuss details of the special campaign. Congregations should endeavor to cover all their assigned territory. Before the campaign ends, make special effort to work those territories that have not been covered in the past six months. In view of the importance of the work, we will want to set aside as much time as possible for the ministry. No doubt more publishers than usual will enroll as auxiliary pioneers. Quite likely many Bible students will also be joining us as newly approved unbaptized publishers. What an enjoyable time we will have as we labor together in the Lord's work!

6 Congregation Book Study conductors should make definite arrangements for group witnessing on Saturdays and on Sundays. Everyone should be encouraged to have an active share. In addition to activity on the weekend, evening witnessing should be scheduled at least once a week during the campaign. Some may wish to meet for service after school to accommodate students who would like to have an extra share.

7 Meetings for field service should be scheduled so that publishers and pioneers can get an early start in the ministry each day. These meetings should be brief. Each should feature a simple presentation of the *Kingdom News*. Afternoon meetings for service may include a suggestion or two for making return visits on those who have accepted the *Kingdom News*. However, some publishers may prefer to engage in the distribution both morning and afternoon. To that end, the service overseer will want to ensure that enough territory is available. The name and address of everyone who shows interest should be noted on a house-to-house record. The main points of the brief discussion may be included in the remarks column. This will pave the way for a return visit later in the week or month.

8 If one congregation helps another to cover its territory, names and addresses of interested persons should be turned in to the congregation holding the territory.

9 Parents, are your children working toward becoming unbaptized publishers? It has been observed that in some congregations, well-behaved children have accompanied their dedicated parents in the ministry for a number of years, and the children do very well, although they are not yet publishers of the good news. Parents ought to consider whether their children really do qualify for this privilege. Two of the elders can discuss all the factors with the family head and determine whether the child can be counted as an unbaptized publisher.—*om* pp. 99-100.

10 Are any publishers in your congregation's territory no longer active in offering a sacrifice of praise to Jehovah? (Heb. 13:15) Some who are inactive may have been overcome by discouragement or by the anxieties of life, although continuing to adhere to the Bible's moral standards. A friendly visit by one of the elders may move them to return to regular association with the congregation and, at an appropriate time, to renewed activity in the ministry.

11 **All Who Qualify Can Share in This Enjoyable Work:** Do some of you children or teenagers find

it difficult to share in the house-to-house ministry? What about you new ones whose experience in the preaching work is quite limited? You will find working with this special *Kingdom News* to be most enjoyable! A simple presentation is all that is needed.

You might say something like this:

- "This month we're distributing an important message in 232 lands around the world. The message is important because it gives us solid reasons to believe that there is a solution to the problems we face today. We would like you to have your personal copy."

Or you might try this:

- "This month about five million volunteers are distributing an important message in scores of languages. It has been prepared for people who would like to see an end to the problems all of us face today. This is your personal copy."

This simple presentation may suit you:

- "We're encouraging everyone to read this important message entitled [read title of *Kingdom News*]. Notice what it states here on page 2 concerning the increasing problems of . . . [read selected sentence from *Kingdom News*]. We're sure you'll enjoy reading the rest of this timely message. This is your copy."

12 Take a personal interest in each one who accepts the *Kingdom News*. Speak slowly and clearly; there is no need to hurry your presentation. We want to be thorough in covering our territory and see that all who express an interest in reading the *Kingdom News* are given a personal copy. When no one is at home, carefully mark your house-to-house record so that you can return at an appropriate time to offer the *Kingdom News* to the householder. This *Kingdom News* may be used in street witnessing when an individual shows an interest in reading the material. Copies should not be handed out indiscriminately as if they were handbills. Rather, approach passersby, and explain the importance of the message being featured. Use the *Kingdom News* in informal witnessing, such as while traveling or when witnessing to fellow employees during your lunch break. Those who are shut-ins or otherwise indisposed may offer them to visitors, doctors and nurses, salesmen, and others who come to their home.

13 How many return visits will you make during the campaign? No doubt a great many, since all those who have shown interest in the *Kingdom News* should be revisited. On the initial call, it is best to feature only the *Kingdom News*. Then, when you return, make a few comments about the timeliness of the message in the *Kingdom News*. Listen carefully as the householder expresses his opinion on what he has read. His comments will help you to know what to offer in the latest magazines and perhaps how to prepare for further discussions. If you get a favorable response on the return visit, try to start a Bible study.—1 Cor. 3:6, 7.

14 **"Your Labor Is Not in Vain":** Will all this work be worthwhile? Paul assured the Corinthians: "Your labor is not in vain in connection with the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58) Over the years, our efforts to distribute *Kingdom News* have been greatly blessed. One couple who were moving into an empty apartment found an older copy of *Kingdom News* in a drawer. It was the only thing left in the whole apartment. After reading it, they contacted the local congregation and requested a Bible study. They began attending all the meetings and later expressed a desire to be baptized. Perhaps a copy you leave will bring similar results!—*km* 11/74 p. 1; see also *Awake!*, November 8, 1976, page 15.

15 We have a tremendous task ahead of us. Our goal is for each congregation to cover its assignment of territory by May 14 or by the end of the month if it is necessary to extend the time for the *Kingdom News* distribution. Consignments have been made so that each regular and auxiliary pioneer will receive 250 copies of *Kingdom News*. Each congregation publisher will get up to 50 copies. Publishers and pioneers should accept only as many copies as they will be able to distribute and should return any extras for others to use. Good cooperation in this regard will ensure the widest distribution possible of this important message. If because of having a large territory assignment some congregations have not covered their territory by mid-May and copies are still available, it may be practical to invite nearby congregations to help. In other congregations the need may be filled locally if publishers increase their activity by enrolling as auxiliary pioneers or by engaging in the ministry more often.

16 Whole-souled devotion to Jehovah will be required if we are going to accomplish our work. (Col. 3:23) Lives are involved. People cannot afford to ignore the meaning of world conditions today. Time is running out. They must face the fact that man does not have the solution to this world's problems. God does. Those who wish to obtain God's blessing must act decisively, without delay, in harmony with his requirements.

17 At the conclusion of the special campaign on May 14, will we let our hand rest? No! We will keep busy in harmony with Paul's inspired counsel.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of January 2 to April 17, 1995. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. The issue of sovereignty is really a question of who is the most powerful, Jehovah or Satan. [*jv* pp. 11-12]
2. The Christian congregation of the first century was a loose association of independent local congregations. [*jv* p. 29 pars. 1-3]
3. To accept counsel is a sign of weakness. [*uw* p. 127 par. 4]
4. The terms "overseer" and "older man," or "elder," all actually refer to the same position. [*jv* p. 35 footnote]
5. Proverbs 11:25 is an example of parallel thoughts or ideas in Hebrew poetic style, and Proverbs 10:7 is an example of contrasting parallelism. [*si* p. 107 par. 7]
6. In 33 C.E., when he was resurrected and took his place at God's right hand, Jesus began to rule at that time over his anointed disciples. (Col. 1:13) [*gt* chap. 132]
7. About 3,000 years before scientists discovered the genetic code, Psalm 139:13-16 reflected knowledge of it. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 5/15 p. 4.]
8. Proverbs 8:22-31 is solely a description of wisdom. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 5/15 p. 28.]
9. A true Christian should not hate anything. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 1/1 p. 21.]
10. Because many of the early Christians witnessed in the face of death, the Greek word for "witness" acquired the meaning that applied to people who were willing to die for their beliefs. [*jv* p. 13]

Answer the following questions:

11. Name three pre-Flood witnesses of Jehovah. [*jv* pp. 13-14] Shem Ham Jap
12. According to Isaiah 43:10 and 61:1, 2, for what two reasons did Jesus have to be a witness of Jehovah? [*jv* p. 19 par. 4] to witness to God & [illegible] born as witness & [illegible]
13. If Jews who later became Christians already knew God's name, in what sense did Jesus make it manifest, or known, to them? [*jv* p. 21 par. 1] [illegible]
14. What two significant organizational changes found their way into the congregation within 150 years or so of the death of the last of the apostles? [*jv* p. 35 par. 2, p. 36 par. 2] Bishop & [illegible]
15. Although the Reformation accomplished some good things, cite at least two basic flaws the Protestant churches carried over from Catholicism. [*jv* p. 39 pars. 2, 3] Trinity laity
16. What false teaching repulsed the honest heart of teenage Charles Taze Russell? [*jv* p. 43 par. 2] [illegible]
17. What made Brother Russell's approach to explaining Bible teachings distinct from that of many writers of his day? [*jv* p. 53 par. 3] use of script
18. Of what benefit to Jesus was his knowledge of the Psalms? [*si* p. 105 par. 30] Fulfillment & Comfort
19. Why were the faithful apostles, Jesus' half brother James, and upwards of 500 disciples convinced that Jesus was resurrected? [*gt* chap. 131]

saw [illegible]

20. Who gave Solomon his wisdom, and what should that make us appreciate when we read Proverbs? [*si* p. 106 par. 1] Jeh

Provide the word or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. Those to whom Jesus addressed his words at Acts 1:8 were already witnesses of Jehovah, and they were now to have the added privilege of being witnesses of Jesus. [*jv* p. 26 pars. 1, 2]
22. Brother Russell was convinced that Christ's return would be invisible, and it is of interest to note that long before Russell's time, Sir Isaac Newton wrote that Christ would return and reign "invisibly." [*jv* p. 46 footnote]
23. In his famous speech at Pentecost 33 C.E., Peter quoted repeatedly from the book of Joel Psl; on that occasion about 3000 persons were baptized and added to the congregation. [*si* p. 105 pars. 25, 26]
24. The Psalms foretold that Jesus would be offered gall Vinegar to drink, that lots would be cast for his outer garment, and that he would appear to be forsaken by God. [*si* p. 105 par. 30]
25. Christianity became known as the way because it was a way, or manner, of life that centered on faith in Jesus and the close following of his footsteps. [*jv* p. 29 par. 5]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. At his impalement, Jesus was offered wine with myrrh, but he refused to drink it because (the Law forbade it; he was a Nazirite; he wanted to have full possession of his faculties). [*gt* chap. 125]
27. To wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb means that we (cease from committing sins; recognize our need for the sin-atoning merit of Jesus' sacrifice; ~~dedicate our life to God and get baptized~~). [*uw* p. 106 par. 7]
28. Jesus was declared innocent at least five times by (Herod; Pilate; Felix), who later caved in to the Jews' relentless demands and handed Jesus over to be executed. [*gt* chap. 124]
29. All of God's faithful servants who died and remained dead before Pentecost (36; 35; 33) C.E. were not anointed with holy spirit for heavenly life. [*uw* p. 111 par. 5]
30. Satan contends that all humans are motivated by (love; hate; desire for personal gain) and that their chief concern is for (God's name; others; self). [*uw* p. 124 par. 14]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Prov. 3:27, 28; John 19:4-6; 19:25-27; Rom. 15:2, 3; Rev. 7:16, 17

31. Christians have the responsibility to see to the care of their aged parents. [*gt* chap. 126] Jo
32. We are genuinely concerned about the effect our appearance may have on others, so we willingly sacrifice the pleasing of ourselves. [*uw* p. 130 pars. 10, 11] R
33. Whenever we have the opportunity to do good to others, whether in a spiritual or a material way, we should seize the opportunity and help our fellowman, especially our spiritual brothers. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*93 12/15 p. 20.] Prov 3
34. Quiet dignity and calm in the face of adversity can bring honor to Jehovah and win the respect of men. [*gt* chap. 123] Jo
35. We are already beginning to enjoy the promised conditions that are appropriately termed "a spiritual paradise." [*uw* pp. 107-9 pars. 9-11] Rev 7:16,1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature to be used during **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. For territory that is covered frequently, any brochure (except the *School* brochure) may be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **June:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New,"* *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

- As announced previously, the special *Kingdom News* will be released on Sunday, April 23, at congregation meetings, as well as at circuit assemblies and special assembly days scheduled for that date. Distribution of the *Kingdom News* may begin immediately after its release. This applies to ALL congregations, including those that may be required to adjust their meeting schedule because of assemblies, circuit overseer visits, or other activities. Congregations having the special talk later than April 23 may release and begin distribution of the *Kingdom News* on April 24.

- Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 1995 in Chinese, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these. Based on the size of each congregation, cards will be shipped in lots of 25. If additional badge cards are needed by the congregation, these should be requested on a Literature Request Form (S-14). It is necessary to request plastic badge card holders for any in the congregation who desire them.

- New Publications Available:

Afrikaans: *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures* (bi7). **Albanian:** *United in Worship of the Only True God; What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?; Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* (for Jews). **Amharic:** *Should You Believe in the Trinity?; Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?; Your Youth—Getting the Best Out Of It; Will This World Survive?* (Tract No. 19); *Comfort for the Depressed* (Tract No. 20); *Enjoy Family Life* (Tract No. 21); *Who Really Rules the World?* (Tract No. 22). **Armenian:** *"Look! I Am Making All Things New."* **Assyrian:** *The Government That Will Bring Paradise; Why You Can Trust the Bible* (Tract No. 13); *What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe?* (Tract No. 14); *What Hope for Dead Loved Ones?* (Tract No. 16); *Will This World Survive?* (Tract No. 19); *Who Really Rules the World?* (Tract No. 22). **Bengali:** *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century.* **Croatian:** *How to Improve Your Speaking and Teaching Ability.* **Gujarati:** *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century; Should You Believe in the Trinity?* **Hebrew:** *A Peaceful New World—Will It Come?* (Tract No. 17; for Jews). **Hindi:** *Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century; Will This World Survive?* (Tract No. 19); *Comfort for the Depressed* (Tract No. 20); *Enjoy Family Life* (Tract No. 21); *Who Really Rules the World?* (Tract No. 22). **Hungarian:** *Sing Praises to Jehovah* (Lyrics only). **Italian:** *Why Should We Worship God in Love and Truth?* (for Hindus). **Korean:** *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures* (bi7). **Latvian:** *Sing Praises to Jehovah* (29 Songs). **Lithuanian:** *Sing Praises to Jehovah* (29 Songs). **Persian:** *The Time for True Submission to God* (for Muslims); *What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe?* (Tract No. 14); *Will This World Survive?* (Tract No. 19); *Comfort for the Depressed* (Tract No. 20); *Enjoy Family Life* (Tract No. 21); *Who Really Rules the World?* (Tract No. 22).

- New Compact Discs Available:

English: *Sing Praises to Jehovah on Compact Disc* (set of eight discs).

- New Videocassettes Available:

Chinese: *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy.*

Do You See a Need?

1 Jehovah is described as a Helper and a Refuge. We know we can go to him in time of need and he will help us. (Ps. 18:2; 46:1) We can imitate this empathetic quality by offering to assist others when we see a need.

2 What motivates a person to go out of his way to help someone else? Most people recognize this as the loving, humane thing to do. Certainly God's Word encourages it. (Rom. 15:1) Paul urged us to keep 'an eye, not in personal interest upon just our own matters, but also in personal interest upon those of the others.'—Phil. 2:4.

3 This is something we can all find joy in doing. (Acts 20:35) Paul singled out young Timothy as an example of one who would "genuinely care for the things pertaining to" his brothers. (Phil. 2:20) It is good that we have many young people in the congregations today with a similar disposition. But whether we are young or old, there are things that we can do if we see a need.

4 Have you ever felt that some have needs that could be given better attention? Perhaps a brother or a sister was in the hospital, and few came to visit; or someone became incapacitated, but there was no one to run errands or assist with household chores. Jesus views those serving Jehovah as members of a family who genuinely care for one another. (Mark 3:33-35) In the parable of the sheep and the goats, he showed that those who enjoy the right hand of the King's favor do so because of their helpfulness to the King's brothers.—Matt. 25:40.

5 **How Can I Help?** What can be done to provide help when there is an obvious need? Could we take the initiative to assist in some way? Perhaps there are older ones who need encouragement, but they have no close associates to help them. There may be young people who need a helping hand. A newly interested family with several children may show up at the Kingdom Hall when the publisher who studies with them is not present. They may appreciate having someone volunteer to help them with the children.

6 As we grow in love for the truth and for Jehovah's organization, we also grow in appreciation and concern for others in the congregation. Paul encouraged us to widen out in this regard. (2 Cor. 6:11-13) Jesus emphasized that our showing love to one another is the primary way we demonstrate that we are truly his followers.—John 13:35.

7 So when we see a need, genuine love for our brothers and for the congregation should motivate us to take the initiative and assist in whatever way we can. (Gal. 6:9, 10) This concern for others draws us together in close bonds of love and unity. (1 Cor. 10:24) In this way, we do our part to help fill a need in the congregation.

The Watchtower and *Awake!* —Magazines for Our Urgent Times!

[1] In fulfillment of Bible prophecy, world-shaking events are taking place! As we contemplate what is happening around us in the world and also within the theocratic organization, we can appreciate how urgent it is that we preach "the good news" of the Kingdom. (Mark 13:10) This gives us reason to carry on our ministry with zeal during the month of April.

[2] The importance of our message is being emphasized by the special work we will undertake this month. With eager anticipation we await the release of the *Kingdom News* that we will distribute during April and May. To build our enthusiasm for this work as well as cultivate interest in our territory, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* will carry timely articles that emphasize the prophetic significance of disturbing world events. How can we prepare a presentation that will stimulate interest in the magazines?

[3] Likely you will be able to develop an effective presentation by following these basic steps: (1) Select an article in one of the magazines that you feel will appeal to people in your community. (2) Pick out a statement or a quoted scripture in this article that you believe will stimulate the interest of the householder. (3) Prepare a brief presentation that includes a friendly greeting, a question or statement that highlights an interesting Scriptural thought, and a sincere invitation to accept the magazines. As you can see, this is quite simple and uncomplicated. Perhaps you could get together with another publisher whom you work with in the ministry and prepare a presentation.

[4] ***Since the April 22 "Awake!" raises the question, "Are These the Last Days?," you could review the material under the heading "Last Days" on page 13 of the "Reasoning" book. You might begin by saying:***

■ "We're calling to discuss the meaning of the turbulent events taking place around us. Note what this article says . . ."

[5] ***The April 1 "Watchtower" raises the question: "Religion—A Taboo Subject?" When offering the magazine, you could say:***

■ "It's often said that religion is one subject that should not be discussed because it's so controversial. What do you think about that?" Then refer to a statement in the article.

[6] ***You may be using the April 15 "Watchtower" with the article "Is Religious Truth Attainable?" You might get a good response with this introduction:***

■ "Because there are so many religions today, some people wonder if religious truth is attainable. This article reveals a way that you and I can find a satisfying answer to this question. . . ."

[7] Before going out in the work, why not practice your presentation with another publisher to get the feel of it? Likely you will be able to share helpful suggestions with each other that will increase your effectiveness and give you greater confidence.

[8] As the end of this system draws nearer, may we quicken our pace to help honesthearted ones to escape from Babylon the Great. (Rev. 18:4) *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* play a vital role in this never-to-be-repeated work. We are thankful that Jehovah has provided these fine instruments for our use!

Search for the Teachable Ones

[1] "No man can come to me unless the Father, who sent me, draws him." (John 6:44) Jehovah, who searches the heart, will reward those who are teachable and act on what they learn. (Jer. 17:10; John 6:45) We have the privilege of being his fellow workers in searching for meek ones who yearn for a new world.—Ps. 37:11; 1 Cor. 3:9.

[2] Jesus described his disciples as "fishers of men." (Matt. 4:19) While that type of work can sometimes be strenuous, there is much satisfaction in getting good results. Instead of working for our personal gain, we are actually rescuing the "fish" from certain destruction. A successful fisherman has to know what to do to attract the fish. Likewise, we must present the Kingdom message in an appealing manner that will arouse the interest of our hearers. This is especially true when we make return visits. What can we say?

[3] ***If interest was shown in the "Watchtower" articles dealing with religion, you might say:***

■ "Previously we spoke about why many people do not like to discuss religion. Don't you feel that's rather strange, since most of our neighbors claim to be Christian? Perhaps you wonder why religion is such a divisive and controversial subject." Allow for response. Turn to page 322 in the *Reasoning* book, and share a few thoughts under the heading "Why Are There So Many Religions?"

[4] ***You might use this similar approach to start a discussion on the subject of religion:***

■ "Is there some way we can be sure that we have the true religion? [Allow for response.] Because there are so many different religions, many people feel confused and uncertain." Turn to the *Reasoning* book, pages 328-9, where it discusses the question "How can a person know which religion is right?" Comment briefly on question number 5, "Do its members truly love one another?" Explain how more can be learned through a personal Bible study.

[5] ***If the householder seemed concerned about world conditions, you might want to try this:***

■ "Apparently you feel concerned about the bad conditions we have to cope with in living and in raising our families. The Bible reveals a wonderful promise that God will fulfill in the near future." Read Proverbs 2:21, 22, and explain how Jehovah has promised a world of lasting peace.

[6] When making return visits after the special *Kingdom News* campaign has begun, please be sure to leave a copy of the *Kingdom News* with householders who do not have one. What you might say on return visits when following up placements of the *Kingdom News* will be discussed in the May issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

[7] Since the Word of God "exerts power," we should try to use it in our presentations. (Heb. 4:12) Make it a point to encourage the householder to read the Bible for himself. (Compare Acts 17:11.) If we diligently do our part, Jehovah will bless our efforts.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 5

A Special *Kingdom News* for Everyone

[1] Starting April 24, we began general distribution of the special *Kingdom News* that has stirred the interest of concerned people everywhere! Its message is not only timely but also *urgent*. Publishers in every congregation have expressed wholehearted support, wanting to put this message into the hands of thousands of people. Are you reaching out for a full share?

[2] A consignment of *Kingdom News* was sent to each congregation, supplying approximately 50 for each publisher and 250 for each pioneer. How many have you been able to distribute? If you have not been able to do as much as you had hoped, have you considered ways to do more before the distribution ends on May 14? What about enrolling as an auxiliary pioneer? Can you take advantage of extra meetings for service during the week, such as those for evening witnessing?

[3] The elders will be carefully reviewing territory coverage. If it will not be possible for the assigned congregation to work some portions, the elders should contact neighboring congregations to enlist help. Our wholehearted efforts, along with good cooperation between congregations, should get the job done.

[4] You have likely experienced extra joy in this work because so many have been able to participate, including new publishers and youngsters. Hopefully, this spirit of joy will be sustained, encouraging all to follow through by returning to visit those who have responded favorably. We were urged to keep good house-to-house records, taking note of those who manifested interest. The latter part of May would be a fine time to concentrate on making return visits with a view to starting new studies.

[5] What can we say when we go back? You might find it effective to say: "You may recall the printed information I left with you recently; I hope you had an opportunity to read it and give the matter some thought. Its message has certainly stirred up a lot of discussion in our community, since it touches on vital issues that confront all mankind." Refer to some of the thought-provoking statements on the second page, and then ask: "What do you think we need to do to make sure we are prepared for what the future will bring?" Allow for response. If interest is shown, discuss other points on pages 2-4 of the *Kingdom News*, and offer a Bible study or, if that is not possible, the latest magazines.

[6] If you work in another congregation's territory, be sure to turn over the names of any interested ones you locate so that return visits can be made by the publishers of that congregation. Likewise, if you are given some calls for follow-up, do not fail to return promptly.

[7] The special distribution of this *Kingdom News* has created excitement and motivated all of us to intensify our efforts in the Kingdom-preaching work. We can be confident that it will be a resounding success, heightening the awareness of people everywhere of Jehovah's great name and purpose. (Isa. 12:4, 5) The more we are able to do, the greater will be our joy.—Ps. 126:3.

Following Our Exemplar as Light Bearers

[1] Jesus declared concerning himself: "I am the light of the world." By following his example, Jesus' disciples also were "the light of the world." (Matt. 5:14) As "the light of the world," Jesus could say that all who follow him will possess "the light of life." (John 8:12) That makes us spiritual light bearers, who must never allow anything to hide or obscure that light.

[2] Jehovah's organization provides training to show us how to be effective light bearers. If we closely follow the counsel and direction we receive, we will be able to enlighten people of all sorts concerning Kingdom truth. (1 Tim. 4:6) Serving as light bearers involves not only talking the truth at every opportunity but also maintaining fine conduct as Christians. Our Exemplar's conduct was above reproach. As his followers, we must demonstrate that Christianity is our everyday way of life. (Eph. 5:9; Titus 2:7, 8, 10) We must produce fine works that others can see, moving them to glorify God. —Matt. 5:16.

[3] One Witness encountered an unusual request while going from house to house. The man of the house and his wife were quite ill, but they needed to deposit some money in the bank. They asked if the Witness would do it. He agreed and was given $2,000 in cash to take to the bank! When he returned, he asked: "How could you trust me without even knowing me?" The answer: "We know, and everyone else knows, that Jehovah's Witnesses are the only ones to trust." How thankful we can be that our adhering closely to the moral principles of the Bible produces such a God-honoring reputation!

[4] A first-grade teacher explained to her class why one six-year-old Witness student was not participating in coloring Halloween pictures. The teacher said she was very proud of her for having the courage to be different because of what she believes. If we firmly believe something, the teacher commented, we should have the courage to stand up for it. That night the teacher analyzed her own beliefs and had to admit that she had not shown the same courage to stand up for her convictions. The next day she announced that she was not going to involve her class in any future holiday celebrations, some of which she did not believe in herself!

[5] Jehovah's people are eager to let their light shine, no matter where they are. The exemplary conduct of youngsters at school has favorably impressed schoolmates and teachers. Adult Witnesses who display fine conduct in the neighborhood cause others to speak well of the Kingdom message. Informal witnessing under a multitude of circumstances attracts sincere people who want to learn more. Even our diligence and honesty in secular work give a witness. Yes, no matter where we are or what we are doing, we can arouse interest in the truth.

[6] By keeping our eyes on the flawless life-pattern of our great Exemplar, we can continue to perfect our skills as his disciples. Copying his example will ensure that our light "shines upon all." —Matt. 5:15; 1 Pet. 2:21.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR MAY

Week Starting May 1

Song 43

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Good News for the Meek Ones." Discuss article with audience, and then have one or two presentations demonstrated.

20 min: "A Special *Kingdom News* for Everyone." Talk and audience discussion by service overseer. Review what has been accomplished so far in distribution of *Kingdom News,* especially noting the good support given to service arrangements and participation by new ones in the field service for the first time. Report on the coverage of territory; explain what needs to be done if help is requested by another congregation. Encourage all to make an extra effort to distribute their allotment of *Kingdom News.* Stress importance of keeping a record of interest and making return visits in an effort to start Bible studies. Have the suggested presentation demonstrated.

Song 55 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 8

Song 61

15 min: Local announcements. "You Too Can Enjoy Good Experiences!" As time permits, invite audience to relate encouraging experiences enjoyed while presenting *Kingdom News.*

15 min: Local needs. Or a talk on the article "How Christians Cope With Public Reproach" in *The Watchtower* of April 1, 1995, pages 26-9.

15 min: "Why Keep a Record of Not-at-Homes?" Questions and answers.

Song 60 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 15

Song 54

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: "Following Our Exemplar as Light Bearers." Questions and answers.

20 min: "1995 'Joyful Praisers' District Convention." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 1-16.

Song 45 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 22

Song 66

10 min: Local announcements. Encourage auxiliary pioneering during the summer months. Review the qualifications outlined in the book *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry,* pages 113-14.

15 min: "Marking That Brings Deliverance." Audience discussion. Include one or two demonstrations to show how return visits can be made.

20 min: "1995 'Joyful Praisers' District Convention." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 17-28. Review "District Convention Reminders." As time permits, review pertinent details from "1995 District Convention Simplification," which appeared in the February 1995 *Kingdom Ministry.*

Song 74 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 29

Song 79

15 min: Local announcements. Offer suggestions that will encourage publishers to try to read a Scripture text as part of their presentation at the doors. Many people have respect for the Bible and are willing to listen when it is read. Its counsel carries weight and will motivate someone who is sincere. It may be appropriate to have the Bible in hand when approaching the door. Texts should be read with feeling and fluency.—See *School Guidebook,* pages 32-3, paragraphs 12-15.

12 min: Question Box. Questions and answers. Explain why we benefit more from the meetings when we prepare in advance and take all the assigned study material with us.

18 min: Offer *Creation* Book During June. Relate expressions made by interested persons who were impressed by the book *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* (See *The Watchtower,* March 15, 1987, page 32; May 1, 1986, page 32; September 1, 1986, page 31.) Point out illustrations on pages 6, 236-7, 243, and 245, and show how these might be used to start conversations. Have a capable publisher demonstrate a presentation that explains the choice each one must make to gain everlasting life, using the thoughts and scriptures on pages 250-1. Remind everyone to pick up copies for use in service this weekend.

Song 63 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
May 1:	**p. 118, ¶ 14**	**p. 120, ¶ 5**
May 8:	**p. 122, ¶ 6**	**p. 124, ¶ 16**
May 15:	**p. 124, ¶ 17**	**p. 127, ¶ 29**
May 22:	**p. 128, ¶ 30**	**p. 131, ¶ 9**
May 29:	**p. 132, ¶ 10**	**p. 134, ¶ 20**

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**160**	**121.4**	**71.7**	**52.7**	**5.6**
Pios.	**74,436**	**73.2**	**32.0**	**23.6**	**2.6**
Aux. Pios.	**17,622**	**57.1**	**25.4**	**15.9**	**1.5**
Pubs.	**812,669**	**9.4**	**5.5**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**904,887**		Baptized: **1,880**		

You Too Can Enjoy Good Experiences!

Some publishers always seem to have interesting, encouraging experiences to relate about a nice call or a return visit that has brought them much joy. Good experiences usually do not come by accident. Most are the result of diligent and sustained effort. They are not necessarily limited to publishers who are more fluent or more capable.

Here are some of the things that have been observed in those who have the most success: (1) They share in field service on a regular basis, usually several times each week, which assures them of many opportunities to make contact with interested persons; (2) they maintain a positive attitude toward householders, not concluding in advance that they will not respond; (3) they have an outgoing manner, displaying a warm, genuine interest in those who listen; (4) they are diligent and persistent in calling back on return visits as well as not-at-homes; and (5) they have the goal of starting Bible studies.

After analyzing your activity, perhaps you can see how you can enjoy more of those delightful experiences that do so much to make the ministry productive and satisfying.

1995 "Joyful Praisers" District Convention

[1] How many reasons do we have to be joyful? Probably few of us have tried to list all of them. Despite living in a world of turmoil and uncertainty, we have so many reasons to be joyful. As announced in the January 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* "Joyful Praisers" is the encouraging theme for the 1995 district conventions.

[2] We praise Jehovah because he taught us the truth. (Isa. 54:13; John 8:32) In turn, we joyfully share the truth with all who are searching for security and happiness. (Ezek. 9:4; Acts 20:35) Our Christian brotherhood also brings us joy. A loving spiritual family brings contentment and happiness. These are just a few of the reasons for our joy that impels us to praise Jehovah. The convention talks and demonstrations will draw our attention to additional Scriptural reasons for joy in these troubled last days.

[3] **A Three-Day Convention:** Have you made arrangements with your employer to get time off in order to be in attendance for all three days of the convention? Parents of school-age children who will be attending one of the conventions while school is still in session should respectfully inform teachers that the children will be absent from school on Friday for this important part of their religious worship. Where is the convention nearest you? The February 15, 1995, *Watchtower* listed the dates and locations for all 181 conventions in the United States branch territory. By now your congregation secretary has informed you of the details for your congregation. In addition to English, there will be conventions in Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language.

[4] The program will begin on Friday at 9:40 a.m. and conclude on Sunday at approximately 3:50 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, the program will start at 9:30 a.m. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. Only those with specific work assignments will be permitted to enter earlier.

[5] **Will You Be in Attendance?:** We are urged to attend all three days of the convention. Why is that? Jehovah wants us to be there. Today our faith and spiritual health are under intense bombardment. Paul counseled concerning "not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together" at a time when Christians in Judea were experiencing great pressure. (Heb. 3:12, 13; 10:25) The Philippians were living "among a crooked and twisted generation." Yet, they were "shining as illuminators in the world." (Phil. 2:15) Why were these first-century Christians different? Because they obediently followed the leadings of holy spirit that directed them to meet together "to incite to love and fine works."—Heb. 10:24.

[6] The world would influence us otherwise, weakening our desire to meet with our brothers and praise Jehovah. This summer we are invited to yield to Jehovah's spirit and enjoy all three days of the convention. Are we determined to be in attendance with our entire family? We need to fortify our love and faith on a regular basis. Jehovah has provided annual conventions to help us in this regard.

[7] **Take Home a Treasure:** How can you gain the most good from the convention? In one word the answer is "concentration." This is no easy task in today's high-strung, fast-moving society. Energetic young people may find concentration difficult, but it is a challenge all of us face when attending a district convention. We will find concentration to be easier if we plan ahead. Ask yourself, 'What is the convention theme?' Meditate on it! 'Why am I going, and what will I be doing during the three days? Will my evenings be filled with recreation, or have I scheduled sufficient time for rest and review of convention highlights?'

[8] The February 1, 1984, *Watchtower* article "Do You Meditate or Just Daydream?" offered several suggestions on how to get the most from a meeting and then drew this conclusion: "Mental discipline is perhaps the most important factor." When a speaker begins, we are usually attentive, but perhaps partway through the talk, we let our mind "slip out of gear." How can we prevent this from happening?

[9] Suggestions offered in the past bear repeating because they work. If at all possible, try to get sufficient rest each night. This is not always easy because travel may be involved, and if you are staying in a hotel, you may not retire as soon or rest as well as at home. Good planning will usually allow you to get the needed rest.

[10] Simple note-taking has proved to be an aid in concentration. If you try to take down too much information, some vital points may be missed entirely. As a suggestion, take notes with the object of presenting a summary of the program to a Bible student or a shut-in. Even though you may not have a specific individual in mind, you will have a purpose in taking notes, and after the convention

you may find occasions to present highlights of the program while witnessing informally to unbelieving family members. By taking notes and sharing what you heard, you will not quickly lose the information. Expression increases retention.

11 Although food will no longer be provided, there is still considerable expense involved in the rental of the convention facility, which often includes additional cost for public-address equipment, literature, and so forth. How are these expenses covered? Through our voluntary donations, either in cash or by check made payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." This is in harmony with Psalm 96:8 and 2 Chronicles 31:12.

12 **Joyful Praisers Honor Jehovah by Godly Conduct:** Last year encouraging positive comments about our conduct were received from motel personnel and the employees of convention facilities. One hotel manager stated: "It is always a pleasure to accommodate the Witnesses because they are patient and cooperative and keep a close eye on their children." Another hotel director said the Witnesses seem to be happier and much more organized than other groups. Even though our convention was the largest held in the area, he said: "We have fewer complaints and difficulties than with groups a fraction of their size."

13 Another hotel employee disclosed that a recent convention held before ours resulted in much damage, as well as thievery, even though the facilities were fully staffed. But regarding our convention, he went on to say: "We don't have to worry about that with the Witnesses. . . . When they're here, we only have to keep one or two maintenance people on hand and that is only to repair incidental problems with machinery."

14 We wish all the reports received were similar, but sadly, that is not the case. One convention chairman observed: "After sessions, many of the teenagers congregate in large numbers in the [hotel] lobby late at night, laughing loudly and yelling. This disturbs other guests . . . , who appear irritated. Some young ones run in the corridors, slamming doors as they visit one another's rooms and talk very loudly in the rooms."

15 Another problem that has persisted over the years is the large number of brothers visiting in corridors and outside the auditorium during sessions. At one convention last year, a note from a Bible student was found in the contribution box. It read: "I have never been so shocked and appalled as I am at the noise, activity, talking, and carrying-on in the hallways during the talks . . . I'm not yet a Witness, only one who is studying and learning godly fear and respect." Surely, none of us would want to leave the impression that we lack appreciation for Jehovah's provisions.

16 At all times we should ask ourselves: 'Whom do I represent, and why am I attending this convention?' Our spirituality and godly devotion are reflected in our speech, conduct, and appreciation for spiritual provisions. (Jas. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:2, 3, 12) Brothers who have endured years of restrictions and bans are often observed to be far more attentive and respectful at conventions, remaining in their seats, absorbed in the talks and demonstrations.

17 **Your Dress and Grooming Send a Message:** At 1 Samuel 16:7, we are reminded that "man sees what appears to the eyes; but as for Jehovah, he sees what the heart is." Thus, people often judge us on the basis of our appearance. Our dress and grooming come under close scrutiny, especially when we are attending a convention for worship and instruction in Christian living. If you are a young person going to school or if your secular employment puts you in close contact with people who follow worldly styles, it may be a challenge to adhere to Christian standards for modest attire.

18 Standards of dress and grooming vary throughout the world. Christians are expected to wear modest, well-arranged clothing. Who should determine this? Parents should be sure their teenage children do not dress like worldly youths in school. Constructive guidelines have been provided to help us make sound decisions in this sensitive area. We encourage review of the February 8, 1987, *Awake!* article "What Do Clothes Mean to You?" What was observed at some of our conventions last year?

19 After one of the "Godly Fear" District Conventions, we received this observation: "The brothers and sisters have improved considerably in their dress, grooming, and conduct at the convention this year. . . . There are still certain conditions and habits that need further improvement, however." After another convention it was reported that immodest dress was very noticeable. The report mentioned that the dress of some was offensive to others. Some outsiders present also noted the immodest dress. The clothing of some was both too revealing and too tight.

20 The majority of the brothers and sisters wear modest, respectable clothing while at the convention site. Later, however, at hotels or in restaurants, some brothers and sisters, still wearing their badges, were dressed in "tank tops, old denims, short-shorts, and . . . faddish clothes not becoming to God's people." If the elders observe that some have a tendency to dress this way during leisure ac-

tivity, it would be appropriate to offer kind but firm counsel before the convention that such attire is not appropriate, especially as delegates attending a Christian convention. Please review with your Bible students who will be attending the convention the guidelines on conduct and dress outlined above.

[21] **Hotels:** Each year considerable effort is made to provide accommodations at reduced rates in order not to impose a financial burden on anyone. Please remember to be patient and kind when dealing with hotel employees. We may be tired from travel and the line of those waiting for accommodations may be long, but your patience will not go unnoticed. It would be very beneficial for publishers to review with their Bible students the January 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert regarding hotel accommodations. We must also remember the need to tip in an appropriate fashion.—June 22, 1986, *Awake!*

[22] **Cameras and Recording Devices:** It is fitting to offer kindly reminders about cameras and recording equipment. Please remember, if you plan to use cameras, camcorders, or any type of recording equipment, show consideration for those around you. Moving around during the sessions or even recording from your seat could be distracting to others. No recording devices of any sort are to be connected to the electrical or sound systems, nor should equipment block aisles or walkways. Whether you decide to take pictures or record parts of the program with a camcorder or an audiocassette recorder is a personal matter. Pictures and recordings can bring back fond memories when viewed at a later date. All such equipment should be used conservatively, in a way that does not distract others or hinder you from gaining the most benefit from the program. After you return home, will there be time to review the recordings? You may find that taking notes will suffice.

[23] **Seating:** At the 1994 "Godly Fear" District Convention, did you note improvement in the matter of saving seats? Some progress has been made, but we still need to be conscious of this reminder: SEATS MAY BE SAVED ONLY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY WHO MAY BE TRAVELING WITH YOU IN YOUR CAR. We are there as guests of the Society. The rental of the auditorium has been paid for by voluntary donations. Would it be loving and considerate to save a seat that we are not sure will be occupied? We are sorry that it will not be possible for us to accommodate requests for separate areas or rooms for those with environmental problems, such as allergies.

[24] Each convention makes provision for those with special needs, such as the elderly and the physically disabled. Please be sure not to occupy seats in one of these sections if you do not qualify. Also, be alert to assist those with special needs to find a seat if they are not accompanied by someone responsible for their care.

[25] **Caring for Your Convention Food Needs:** As you know, the December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry* announced: "Beginning with the 1995 district conventions and the September 1995 circuit assemblies and special assembly days, there will be no food served. Each one is to bring his own food and drink." Then the February 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert explained why this adjustment has been made and gave fine suggestions as to how everyone can care for his own food and drink needs at the convention. It would be good for all not only to review that insert themselves but also to go over it with their Bible students as they prepare to attend the convention. It is important that Bible students be informed that all attending should bring their own food and drink to the convention.

[26] Just to emphasize some points, you will want to remember these suggested items to bring for the noon break: light, simple, and nourishing lunch items similar to what people often take with them to a secular job, such as cold sandwiches, dried fruits, nuts, baked items, and fresh fruit. Liquids may include coffee, soft drinks, fruit juices, or bottled water, in a nonbreakable container or a thermos. If small coolers are necessary, they are acceptable if they will fit under your seat. However, no large family-size picnic coolers, alcoholic beverages, or glass containers should be brought into the convention facility. Eating or snacking during the program sessions should be avoided. This would show disrespect for the spiritual meal being served.

[27] An additional caution is that no cooking is to be done in hotel rooms unless they have a kitchenette for that purpose. It is good to reflect on the fact that the time allowed for the noon break is designed so that we can take in light refreshment and enjoy theocratic association with our brothers and sisters. As Jehovah's people, we recognize that the spiritual food at the conventions is of primary importance in comparison with material things, and we should plan accordingly.

[28] On June 2, 1995, the first of the "Joyful Praisers" District Conventions will begin. Have you completed your preparations, and are you now ready to enjoy three days of happy fellowship and spiritual good things? It is our sincere prayer that Jehovah will bless your efforts to attend this summer's convention with your brothers and sisters as we dwell on how to be joyful praisers of Jehovah.

District Convention Reminders

Baptism: Baptismal candidates should be in their seats in the designated section before the program begins on Saturday morning. It has been observed that some wear types of attire that are not dignified and detract from the occasion. A *modest* bathing suit and a towel should be brought by each one who plans to be baptized. After the baptism talk and prayer by the speaker, the session chairman will give brief instructions to the candidates and will then call for a song. After the *last* stanza, the attendants will direct the candidates to the immersion site. Since baptism in symbol of one's dedication is an intimate and personal matter between the individual and Jehovah, there is no provision for so-called partner baptisms in which two or more baptismal candidates embrace or hold hands while being baptized.

Badge Cards: Please *wear* the 1995 badge card at the convention and while traveling to and from the convention site. This often makes it possible for us to give a fine witness while traveling. Badge cards and holders should be obtained through your congregation, as they will *not* be available at the convention. Remember to carry your current Advance Medical Directive/Release card. Bethel family members and pioneers should have their identification cards with them.

Rooming: We are asking for the cooperation of everyone in using ONLY the listing of accommodations provided by the convention. If we bypass the Society's arrangement and secure a hotel not on the approved list or pay more than the agreed-upon rate at one of the listed hotels, we undermine much of the hard work of our brothers who negotiate with the hotels for better rates. IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH A HOTEL, please do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of the Rooming Department overseer at the convention so that he can assist you in resolving the matter right away. Congregation secretaries should be sure that Special Needs Room Request forms are promptly forwarded to the appropriate convention address. If you must cancel an accommodation made through the special needs arrangement, you should immediately notify both the landlord or hotel and the convention Rooming Department so that the room can be reassigned.

Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs: In many locations, baby strollers cannot be used in places of public assembly. Fire regulations prohibit placing them in corridors and aisles or between rows of seats. Since large crowds may cause congested conditions, baby strollers are potentially dangerous not only to the baby but also to any who may stumble over them. So please do not bring them to the convention site. However, infant or car seats are permissible, since these can be secured in seats next to the parents. Also, please do not bring lawn chairs. They are dangerous and are not allowed at large public facilities. Your cooperation in these matters is appreciated.

Volunteer Service: Can you set aside some time at the convention to assist in one of the departments? Serving our brothers, if only for a few hours, can be very helpful and bring a good measure of satisfaction. If you can assist, please report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent or other responsible adult.

Words of Caution: By keeping alert to potential problems, we can save ourselves unnecessary difficulty. Often thieves and other unscrupulous individuals will prey on people who are away from their home environment. Be sure your vehicle is locked *at all times,* and never leave anything visible to tempt someone to break in. Thieves and pickpockets focus their attention on large gatherings. It would not be wise to leave any valuables at your seat. You cannot be sure that everyone around you is a Christian. Why offer any temptation? Reports have been received of attempts made by some outsiders to lure children away. KEEP YOUR CHILDREN IN SIGHT AT ALL TIMES.

Cable television that is available in many hotels often features lewd, pornographic movies. Be alert to this snare, and do not permit children to have unsupervised access to the television in the room.

Please do not phone the management of the convention auditorium seeking information about any convention matters. If the information is not available from the elders, please write to the convention address found on the back of the Special Needs Room Request forms on file with each congregation secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature to be used during **May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. For territory that is covered frequently, any brochure (except the *School* brochure) may also be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **June:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New,"* *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).
- The presiding overseer should telephone the Society if he does not receive the congregation's supply of *Our Kingdom Ministry* by the 20th of the month preceding the issue date. If the presiding overseer's address is being changed, please send a completed Presiding Overseer Change of Address form (S-29) to the Society immediately, since *Our Kingdom Ministry* is sent to the presiding overseer's address.

QUESTION BOX

- What items should we take to meetings?

Each week we receive beneficial instruction and encouragement at congregation meetings. (Isa. 48:17; Heb. 10:24, 25) How much we benefit, however, depends largely on whether we come well prepared or not.

It would be good for each family member to have his own study material and other items needed for the meetings. This would include a Bible, a songbook, the publication(s) being studied, a notebook, and a pen or pencil.

For the Theocratic Ministry School, the Theocratic Ministry School Schedule and the *Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook* are needed. These items help us to keep in mind the theme of the student talks being given and to follow the school overseer when he gives counsel. We can make personal application of the counsel and suggestions in order to improve our own talks and field service presentations. Since January, most of the instruction talks are based on *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*. It may not be practical for every family member to take his own copy; perhaps one volume could be brought so that the family will have it available for reference.

For the Service Meeting, we need to have the current *Our Kingdom Ministry* and the *Reasoning* book. Take along any publications referred to during the meeting, such as literature items that will be used in presentations to be demonstrated. Elders should have a copy of *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry*.

Parents should endeavor to have their children sit still and pay attention at congregation meetings. Providing them with personal copies of *The Watchtower* and other publications, even before they are able to read, encourages them to take an interest. When young ones are taught to respect theocratic publications and to use them, lifelong, wholesome spiritual habits are formed.

The joy and satisfaction we derive from congregation meetings are greatly enhanced when we come fully equipped. (2 Tim. 3:17) This is the best way to ensure that we are "filled with the accurate knowledge of [God's] will in all wisdom and spiritual comprehension."—Col. 1:9.

Why Keep a Record of Not-at-Homes?

1 A Witness couple were out in field service early in the day. Later that same day, they returned to cover their not-at-homes in that territory. One man invited them in and listened intently. He took a *Live Forever* book and asked if the Witnesses would return. He had never talked with Jehovah's Witnesses before and had many questions he wanted answered; a Bible study was started. This couple were overjoyed to locate such a sheeplike individual. Would you like to have an experience such as that? Keeping a good record of not-at-homes and returning promptly may make it possible for you to do so.

2 We have repeatedly been urged to keep an accurate record of not-at-homes and to call again soon. As the above experience shows, another visit on the same day may bring excellent results. While we may be intent on covering the assigned territory, perhaps we are not as diligent in keeping a record of those who are not at home. Some say: 'We work our territory every two or three weeks; there is no need to keep such a record because we will be back very soon anyway.' But that gives us even more reason to keep a record. Where territory coverage is frequent, following up not-at-homes enables us to be more thorough in searching out deserving ones. How so?

3 In many areas, 50 percent or more of the residents are not at home during the day. So, in effect, we make more territory available by concentrating more on our not-at-homes. Even if the territory is seldom worked, we can improve the results when an effort is made to reach everyone before marking the territory as having been worked.

4 Calling on not-at-homes can usually be arranged for another day, preferably within a week. Many find it better to return on a day and at a time different from when the initial call was made. You may choose to use some time on Saturday or Sunday to follow up not-at-homes noted during the week. Then again, many congregations find that making such calls in the early evening hours has been fruitful. They may find more than half the residents at home.

5 You should list return visits in your personal records. If you are unable to get back to where no one was at home, your record of not-at-homes should be given to the brother handling the group, for use by the next group going into that territory.

6 Giving closer attention to this feature of our ministry can increase our productivity as well as our joy. It can give us the satisfaction that comes with knowing that we are thorough in searching out and caring for sheeplike ones.—Ezek. 34: 11-14.

Good News for the Meek Ones

1 We live in a time of impending judgment. (Ezek. 9:5, 6) It is urgent that meek people everywhere be informed so that they can prepare for what is coming. In his loving-kindness, Jehovah has commissioned his people "to tell good news to the meek ones." (Isa. 61:1, 2) Our magazines help us declare this good news far and wide.

2 *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* provide solid spiritual food that strengthens and motivates us. *The Watchtower* comforts meek ones with the good news that God's Kingdom will soon turn the earth into a paradise. *Awake!* builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world. Widespread distribution of these journals is one of the fastest ways to bring the good news to the meek ones. What talking points can we highlight in the latest issues?

3 ***You could present the May 1 "Watchtower" by pointing to the article "Benefiting From Daily Bible Reading" and asking the question:***

■ "What benefit do you think we can derive from reading the Bible? [Allow for response.] The Bible itself, at Romans 15:4, helps us to reason on that question. [Read Romans 15:4.] Most people in our community have a Bible, but few find time to read it regularly. We believe that the only sure hope for the future is to be found in the Bible, and we will be blessed if we read it." Make additional appropriate comments, and then offer the magazines.

4 ***The May 15 "Watchtower" features an intriguing article entitled: "A New Life for Our Ancestors." You might be able to stir interest with this introduction:***

■ "Many have often wondered what their ancestors were like. Since they are dead and gone, most people conclude that we will never know. Do you think there is any possibility that we will ever get to know our ancestors?" Allow for response. Read John 5:28, 29, and explain how God has promised to give them a new life in a paradise earth.

5 ***You could offer the May 8 "Awake!" by asking a question:***

■ "What do you think it would take to make life really worth living?" Allow for response. Refer to the article "What Is the Meaning of Life?", page 26, and read Solomon's words at Ecclesiastes 2:11. Then, point out his advice at chapter 12, verse 13. Invite the householder to accept the magazine.

6 If you are working with the magazines prior to May 14, be sure to carry copies of *Kingdom News* No. 34 and offer them to anyone who has not yet received a copy. In distributing the magazines, we should remember that householders are welcome to give a small contribution toward the support of our work if they wish. We should always be ready to share our literature, realizing that it may be read by others in the family as well as by friends who may visit them. (1 Tim. 6:18) The good news we bring to the meek ones may save their lives.—1 Tim. 4:16.

Marking That Brings Deliverance

1 Before executing his righteous judgments, Jehovah always gives warning and provides the meek ones with a way of escape. In Ezekiel's day, there were those who were sighing and groaning about all the detestable things being done. Jehovah caused such deserving ones to be marked for deliverance. (Ezek. 9:4-6) Our preaching work today accomplishes the same purpose. We can play an important role.

2 Locating sincere people is just the first step. We arrange for a return visit. Preparation for the return visit is made on the first call by noting the placement and the subject discussed. Our success in calling back will largely depend on what we are prepared to say and do when we return.

3 ***In following up the placement of "The Watchtower," you could focus on its main theme:***

■ "Note that on the front cover of *The Watchtower* appears the statement 'Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom.' What makes this magazine unique is that it advocates God's Kingdom as the only solution to the world's problems. It explains what God's Kingdom will accomplish when God's will is done on earth. This is the good news that Jesus said would be declared in all the earth." Read Matthew 24:14, and explain how *The Watchtower* can be obtained regularly and used for personal Bible study.

4 ***You might prefer to focus simply on the Bible itself and stress the need to read it regularly. You could say:***

■ "It seems that just about everyone we know would appreciate some practical advice on how to cope with the problems of everyday living. Where do you think we can find advice that we can trust? [Allow for response.] Many who have put their trust in the advice of friends or who have paid for professional counsel have been sadly disappointed. On the other hand, millions of people have found the Bible to be the only source of advice they can really trust. The Bible provides instruction on how to cope with any problem we may face. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.] Although you may have found the Bible difficult to understand, let me show you how you can use it to open up a treasure-house of wise counsel." Continue by turning to "Love" in the section "Bible Words Indexed" in the back of the *New World Translation*, and point out some of the references that show how love can help us resolve differences with others.

5 ***With the goal of starting a Bible study, you might choose to use the book "You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth," using this introduction:***

■ "We love our families and want the best for them. How would your family benefit from living in a world like this?" Show the illustrations on pages 156-7. Read one or two of the scriptures quoted on those pages, and explain that these are promises made by Jehovah God, who cannot lie. Refer to the list of chapters on pages 5-6, and ask the householder which subject interests him most; turn to the chapter he selects, and discuss one or two paragraphs.

6 Would you like to help another person to be marked for deliverance? Success lies in 'fully accomplishing your ministry' by preparing well and promptly following up all the interest you find.—2 Tim. 4:5.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

June 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 6

Jehovah Imparts Power

1 As Jehovah's people, we have been given the assignment to preach the good news while maintaining our conduct "fine among the nations." (1 Pet. 2:12; Matt. 24:14) In view of the critical times as well as our own weaknesses and shortcomings, we could never accomplish this work on our own. (2 Tim. 3:1-5) How happy we are that we can look to Jehovah for help!

2 The apostle Paul endured many trials. (2 Cor. 11:23-27) How was he able to cope with these and finish his assigned work? Jehovah granted him "power beyond what is normal." (2 Cor. 4:7) Paul acknowledged such divine help when he wrote: "For all things I have the strength by virtue of him who imparts power to me." (Phil. 4:13) Jehovah will help us in the same way. How can we obtain this assistance?

3 **By Praying Incessantly:** Jesus urged us to 'keep on asking, seeking, and knocking,' and not to give up. (Luke 11:5-10) Our persistence in prayer demonstrates to Jehovah the depth of our concern, the intensity of our desire, and the genuineness of our motive. (Ps. 55:17; 88:1, 13; Rom. 1:9-11) Paul recognized the importance of persistence in prayer when he urged us to "pray incessantly." (1 Thess. 5:17) Prayer is one of the primary ways in which we obtain Jehovah's help.

4 **By Following Theocratic Direction:** "Theocracy" means "rule by God," who is love. We benefit from his rule by accepting his authority and following his instructions in large and small decisions. "The faithful and discreet slave" represents theocratic rule on this earth. (Matt. 24:45-47) Cooperation with the organization that the "slave" uses is vital if we are to obtain Jehovah's blessing. (Compare Hebrews 13:17.) Jehovah will reward our loyalty to him and our willingness to obey his laws by supplying the power we need at the appropriate time.—Heb. 4:16.

5 **By Keeping Close to Our Brothers:** Love is the identifying mark of Jesus' disciples. (John 13:34, 35) With a wide variety of personalities, friction can arise among us because of personal differences. We need to be tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another. (Eph. 4:32) This makes it possible to remain close to our brothers in the faith and to be encouraged by their steadfast endurance under trial. "Knowing that the same things in the way of sufferings are being accomplished in the entire association of [our] brothers," we have the God-given strength to deal with similar pressures.—1 Pet. 5:9.

6 **By Maintaining a Good Routine of Personal Study:** Fortifying our minds and hearts spiritually enables us to fight off Satan's attack. (1 Pet. 5:8) A good routine of personal study will increase our bank of godly knowledge. We can draw from this when facing everyday challenges. Paul stressed that "accurate knowledge" plays a vital part in gaining salvation. (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) It is essential to take in spiritual food regularly.

7 All the provisions necessary to help us keep strong are readily available through the Christian congregation. Wholehearted support of its activities will guarantee that we "will walk and not tire out."—Isa. 40:29-31.

Christ as a Model for Youths

1 After a lengthy Bible discussion, a youth stated: "I was struck by the dynamic personality of Jesus Christ. Here is a leader I could believe in." The same cannot be said of any national figure or of sports and entertainment heroes. True Christians do not view as models those who openly embrace worldly standards and unchristian life-styles.—Ps. 146:3, 4.

2 Young people can be assured that when they come to exercise faith in Jesus Christ, they present themselves as God's sheep and are known by Jesus. The Fine Shepherd cares for them. (John 10:14, 15, 27) Youths who follow Christ as their Model are blessed.

3 One brother who currently serves at Brooklyn Bethel had this privilege of service as a goal from the time he was eight years old. He was encouraged to view Bethel service as a practical way to follow Christ's example when he got older. His parents, as well as traveling overseers, kept this before him. To help him prepare, they encouraged him to apply himself diligently just like a member of the Bethel family, performing chores at home, helping to maintain the Kingdom Hall, and developing skills in the ministry. After enjoying Bethel service for years now, he is thankful that as he was growing up, he made the effort to imitate Christ's example.

4 Jesus did not pursue a worldly career; he chose the ministry. A young sister wanted to pioneer when she graduated from school but held back because of not having suitable part-time employment. She kept thinking: 'First I'll find a job, then I'll put in my pioneer application.' An elder pointed out that the longer she waited, the better a full-time job would look, since she would not have anything holding her back from accepting it. She related: "I prayed to Jehovah for his spirit to guide me." She immediately enrolled as an auxiliary pioneer and later became a regular pioneer. Shortly after that, she found ideal employment that accommodated her pioneer schedule.

5 Jesus boldly declared the Kingdom message to everyone. (Matt. 4:23) Young Christians can also learn to be bold in preaching, not being intimidated by others. One 14-year-old Witness reported: "Everyone at school knows my position as a Christian. . . . They know it so well that if I meet a classmate while I'm engaging in the ministry, I do not feel embarrassed. Fellow students usually listen, and many times they accept literature."

6 Considering Christ's example can help young people make wise decisions about their future. Instead of being preoccupied with worldly pursuits, they 'remember their Grand Creator' by showing zeal in Jehovah's service. (Eccl. 12:1) Like Christ Jesus, they are cultivating "the love of the Father," which brings blessings far more desirable than anything offered by the world. Instead of "passing away" with the old world, they can look forward to 'remaining forever.'—1 John 2:15-17.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JUNE

NOTE: *Our Kingdom Ministry* will schedule a Service Meeting for each week during the summer. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Joyful Praisers" District Convention and then for a 30-minute review of the program highlights at the Service Meeting the following week. The day-by-day review of the district convention program should be assigned in advance to two or three qualified brothers who will be able to focus on outstanding points. This well-prepared review will help the congregation remember key points for personal application and for use in the field. Comments from the audience and experiences related should be brief and to the point.

Week Starting June 5

Song 7

12 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Review upcoming summer activities; remind all to keep active in the service, get to the meetings, and turn in reports.

15 min: "Jehovah Imparts Power." Questions and answers. Relate experience in the February 1, 1992, *Watchtower,* page 32.

18 min: "Jehovah Is Our Creator." Discuss with audience. Have two demonstrations showing how to use the suggested presentations. Include some brief suggestions about how to make a return visit, following up on placements of the *Kingdom News* distributed during April and May.

Song 17 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 12

Song 221

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

17 min: "Christ as a Model for Youths." Questions and answers. Include comments from the September 1, 1986, *Watchtower,* pages 4-6.

18 min: "Help Those Without Faith." Congregation Book Study conductor reviews article with two or three publishers and then discusses how to use the material. They practice by demonstrating presentations to one another.

Song 122 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 19

Song 80

10 min: Local announcements. Demonstrate two or three brief magazine presentations that may be used in field service this week.

18 min: Grant Recognition to Others. Talk by an elder, based on December 1, 1994, *Watchtower,* pages 28-30. Stress the need to show honor and loving concern for others in the congregation.

17 min: "Make Good Use of Your Time." Questions and answers. Regarding time spent watching TV, review suggestions under subheading "Taking Control," on page 11 of the May 22, 1991, *Awake!*

Song 208 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 26

Song 75

15 min: Local announcements. Briefly discuss the importance of making return visits. The major part of our teaching work is done when we return to cultivate interest. Few people can make spiritual progress with the literature alone. When we fail to return, we miss our best opportunity to help them. Return visits produce Bible studies. Many publishers have got the best results by returning within a day or two rather than waiting a week. —See *Our Ministry* book, pages 88-9.

15 min: Question Box. Questions and answers to be handled by *Watchtower* Study conductor. Make further comments based on *School Guidebook,* pages 91-2.

15 min: Review literature offer for July. Discuss outstanding features of the brochures the congregation has in stock. Have publishers briefly demonstrate how they can be offered at the door. Examples: *Does God Really Care About Us?* (Turn to pages 26-7, point out the illustrations, and discuss one of the scriptures about the coming Paradise.) *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?* (Turn to pages 30-1, consider one of the quoted scriptures, and discuss the illustration.) *When Someone You Love Dies.* (Call attention to questions raised on page 2, and then comment on one or two comforting Scriptural thoughts found on page 31.) Let the congregation know what brochures are currently in stock.

Song 225 and concluding prayer.

QUESTION BOX

■ How can we comment most effectively at meetings?

We look forward to assembling together at weekly congregation meetings. There we have an opportunity to express our faith and encourage others by our commenting. (Prov. 20:15; Heb. 10:23, 24) We should view commenting as a privilege and strive to have a regular share. How can we do this most effectively?

Preparation is the first step. Reading and pondering over the material in advance is important. Try to capture the spirit of what is being presented. Although the subject may have been discussed in the past, look for any enlarged or enhanced points that are presented. Keep in mind the overall theme of the material. When preparing comments from a publication that features an in-depth study of a Bible book, such as the *Revelation Climax* book, try to see how a particular verse relates to the verses surrounding it. Following these suggestions will stimulate your thinking ability. It will help you to prepare good comments and find joy in your participation.

The best comments are concise, simply stated, and based on the publication being studied. The first commenter should answer the question directly, leaving other points for additional comments. Avoid long, rambling comments that take up excessive time and prevent others from sharing. Express yourself in your own words, rather than read your comment word for word from the publication. Auxiliary comments could include points covered in cited Scripture texts. Listen carefully to what others say so that you can avoid any unnecessary repetition.

It is good to raise your hand several times but not on every paragraph. We invite youngsters to share in commenting. If you are hesitant about speaking up, you may let the conductor know in advance which paragraph you would like to comment on, and likely he will be able to give you an opportunity to do so.

All of us should make an earnest effort to have something to share at congregation meetings that involve audience participation. Remember, the success of such meetings depends to a great extent upon our willingness and effectiveness in commenting.—Ps. 26:12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **June:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?, Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!, "Look! I Am Making All Things New," Should You Believe in the Trinity?, The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever, The Government That Will Bring Paradise, What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?,* and *When Someone You Love Dies.* **September:** The *Live Forever* book will be used, and efforts should be made to start home Bible studies. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).
- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to the congregation when this has been done.
- If it is necessary to telephone the Society's Service Department, please use the following telephone number as of June 1, 1995: (914) 878-7000.
- New Publications Available:

"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial" —Romanian
Does God Really Care About Us? —Georgian, Welsh
Elementary Bible Teachings —Punjabi
How Can Blood Save Your Life? —Russian
How to Find the Road to Paradise (for Muslims) —Croatian, Spanish
Is There a God Who Cares? —Bengali
Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century —Tamil
Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's Will Worldwide —Macedonian
My Book of Bible Stories (Large size) —Estonian, Gujarati
Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Polish
Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand! —Thai
School and Jehovah's Witnesses —Amharic
United in Worship of the Only True God —Gujarati, Marathi, Nepali, Samoan
Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1993 —French, Swedish
Watch Tower Publications Scripture Index 1986-1990 —Croatian
When Someone You Love Dies —Cebuano, Norwegian, Iloko, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai
Will There Ever Be a World Without War? (for Jews) —Japanese

- New Audiocassettes Available:

Doing God's Will With Zeal —Arabic

- New Videocassettes Available:

The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy —American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin)
To the Ends of the Earth —English

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
June 5:	**p. 134, ¶21**	**p. 138, ¶35**
June 12:	**p. 138, ¶36**	**p. 142, ¶4***
June 19:	**Entire page 139**	
June 26:	**p. 143, ¶5**	**p. 146, ¶17**

* Except for page 139.

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**199**	**124.6**	**75.7**	**53.8**	**5.6**
Pios.	**75,147**	**79.8**	**36.4**	**25.4**	**2.6**
Aux. Pios.	**28,875**	**59.0**	**27.7**	**15.8**	**1.4**
Pubs.	**806,295**	**9.9**	**5.9**	**3.7**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**910,516**		Baptized: **3,235**		

Make Good Use of Your Time

1 Jehovah is time conscious. He wants us to be aware of time too. Through his organization he helps us to be time conscious. We are urged always to have "plenty to do in the work of the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58) In this way, we can be more effective in Jehovah's service.

2 Each of us has the same amount of time each week—168 hours. How well do we use our time? Do we show that we really know what time it is from Jehovah's standpoint? Are we being distracted by nonessential activities?

3 It is important that we be well organized. Many try to maintain a priority list. Each item is put on the list according to its importance. How can that be determined? The Bible says that a man should "see good for all his hard work." (Eccl. 3:13) Some tasks yield better results than others. Consider the *results* that each one will bring. Will finishing the job produce significant benefits? Will you "see good" for your hard work? If not, it may not be a high-priority task.

4 **In Our Ministry:** We appreciate it when others arrive at meetings for service on time, listen carefully to instructions, and leave promptly for the territory. We would rather be busy preaching than waiting. Paul obviously felt strongly about the need for good order when he wrote: "Let all things take place decently and by arrangement."—1 Cor. 14:40.

5 When we are out in field service, we can lose valuable time on coffee breaks. However, when weather conditions are severe, a break will refresh us and help us to keep going. Many, though, prefer to keep busy witnessing to people and forgo socializing with the brothers on coffee breaks during the time that has been set aside for the ministry. Balance is needed.

6 "Even the stork . . . well knows its appointed times" to migrate, and the ant "prepares its food even in the summer" in order to be ready for the winter, says the Bible. (Jer. 8:7; Prov. 6:6-8) Therein lies the secret of making good use of time. We too must 'know our appointed times.' Without being overly rigid, we should be time conscious. We need to know not only what we have to do but also when it needs to be done. We should get into the habit of thinking ahead, making allowances for possible delays. And we should also be willing to cut short some activities to make time for something more important, such as preparation for our meetings, field ministry, and other theocratic activities.

7 We want to be like our heavenly Father, Jehovah God, who teaches us that "for everything there is an appointed time." (Eccl. 3:1) By making good use of our time, we can 'fully accomplish our ministry.'—2 Tim. 4:5.

Jehovah Is Our Creator

[1] Millions of people believe that God created life. Many others believe in evolution. Then there are those who are not sure what to believe. The book *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* is for all such people. This publication presents a thoroughly researched explanation of how life got here and what this means for our future. During June, we will be featuring this fine book.

[2] Even prominent ones in the scientific community have acknowledged the book's logic. One scientific researcher in the Netherlands wrote: "This book really does exceed all expectations. The logical buildup of the chapters and the illustrations are scientifically so up-to-date that you would have to be blind to raise any objections to them." An attorney declared: "I have read it four times and continue to be impressed with the depth of study, scholarship, and documentation that went into its production." So we can be confident that yet others will appreciate this book.

[3] ***You might choose to make a brief presentation like this:***

■ Open to page 6, and say: "Many people think that our beautiful earth and life upon it resulted from an accident. What do you consider to be a reasonable explanation as to how all of this came about? [Allow for response.] Mountains of evidence confirm the Bible's account of a Creator who not only is very powerful but also loves us very much. He is the true God, and his name is Jehovah." Read Psalm 83:18, and briefly explain how it is his purpose to transform the entire earth into a paradise.

[4] ***If you want to come to the point quickly, you might say:***

■ "Have you ever wondered about this question?" Point to the title of the book, turn to page 7, read the questions in paragraph 2, and explain that the book provides satisfying answers from the Bible.

[5] ***Or you might try this:***

■ "Did you ever wonder how the earth came into existence? Many insist that it is the result of some colossal cosmic explosion. What do you think? [Allow for response.] The Bible teaches that God created the earth as our everlasting home. It is different from the other planets in our solar system. As far as we know, it is the only one in the universe that has all the complex provisions needed to sustain life." Turn to paragraph 5 on page 130, and explain why the earth must be the work of a Master Designer.

[6] ***Another approach might be something similar to this:***

■ "Some people think that we evolved from ape-men. They claim that our ancestors looked like this. [Show the picture on page 89.] What do you think about that?" Allow for response. Point out what is stated in paragraph 20, and then read Acts 4:24, which identifies Jehovah as our Creator and Life-Giver. "This book examines the entire theory of evolution in relation to what is stated in the Bible." Refer to table of contents on page 5, and point out some titles, such as those for chapters 1, 7, 15, and 19.

[7] This book can be a blessing to sincere people who have been deceived by those without faith in Jehovah or his Word. The factual information the *Creation* book contains can help such ones to grow in appreciation for our Creator, who lovingly cares for us.

Help Those Without Faith

[1] In this day and age, it has become popular to be viewed as educated and progressive in thinking. Human philosophies and fanciful theories are extolled, while spiritual values are ignored. Sincere people who are interested in simple facts and understandable truths will welcome the opportunity to examine the book *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* This book can help those who lack faith. (Rom. 1:19, 20) Be sure to make return visits on all those who express interest.

[2] ***You might begin your discussion this way:***

■ "I'm sure you are aware that many educators support the belief that the human family got here by evolution. It teaches that everything exists by accident. How do you feel about that? [Allow for response.] This idea is still referred to as a theory. A theory is 'a speculation' or 'an unproved assumption.' For centuries men believed that the earth was flat; now we know that was a foolish assumption not based on fact. Could the same be true of the theory of evolution?" Read the introductory comments on page 4, and then discuss Isaiah 42:5.

[3] ***Or you might take this approach when you return:***

■ "It is common to meet people who do not believe in God. Years ago, that was very rare. Why do you think so many have lost faith in God? [Allow for response.] Many attribute their loss of faith to the appalling increase in violence and distress in our world. They reason that if there is an almighty God, why doesn't he put an end to all this suffering? Those who can't find a satisfying answer to that question often become atheists. But there is overwhelming evidence to prove that God exists and that he will soon make the earth a place of happiness and peace." Continue the discussion by using the Scriptural thoughts found in paragraph 19 on page 196.

[4] ***With your Bible in hand, you might open the conversation by saying:***

■ "We are calling again to point out why a study of the Bible is practical for our times. Most people have a Bible, but few take time to read it. Some frankly tell us that they don't have much confidence in the Bible anymore. How do you feel about that? [Allow for response.] One of the things that convinces us that the Bible is the inspired Word of God is the fulfillment of its prophecies." Refer to Scripture texts in paragraph 6 on page 234.

[5] ***This thought might get a favorable response:***

■ "We can see beauty and marvelous evidence of wisdom in the things that surround us on this earth. This lovely picture of a sunset is a fitting example." Show the illustration on pages 12 and 13. Mention points from "Some Things to Think About," and explain how this book provides satisfying answers to vital questions about our world.

[6] We can be a blessing to others by using this book to help them find a solid basis for faith in their Creator.

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Our Kingdom Ministry (USPS 295-360) is published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., and International Bible Students Association, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Printed in U.S.A.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 7

"Keep on the Watch"

1 When Jesus spoke the words recorded at Matthew 26:38-41, he was approaching the most critical time of his human existence. It would prove to be the most important time in all human history. The salvation of all mankind was at stake. Jesus' disciples needed to "keep on the watch."

2 Today we stand at the threshold of Jesus' arrival in the dual role of deliverer and executioner. As watchful Christians realizing the urgency of the times, we do not just fold our arms and wait for deliverance. We know that we must be ready at all times. It is necessary for us to keep "working hard and exerting ourselves" in our service to Jehovah. (1 Tim. 4:10) What about each one of us individually? Are we keeping on the watch?

3 **Examining Ourselves:** Jesus also warned: "Pay attention to yourselves." (Luke 21:34, 35) We must be attentive to ourselves, making sure that we are "blameless and innocent . . . in among a crooked and twisted generation." (Phil. 2:15) Are we living each day as Christians, imitating Jesus and walking in harmony with the principles outlined in God's Word? We must avoid unchristian conduct characteristic of a world that is "lying in the power of the wicked one." (1 John 5:19; Rom. 13:11-14) When we examine ourselves in the light of the Scriptures, are we truly on the watch as Jesus instructed?

4 Elders must be alert to be diligent in carrying out their assignments in the congregation, realizing that they will render an account for how they care for the flock. (Heb. 13:17) Family heads have a special obligation to direct their households in the ways of Jehovah. (Gen. 18:19; Josh. 24:15; compare 1 Timothy 3:4, 5.) Also, how vital it is that all of us fulfill the Scriptural command to love one another! It is the mark of true Christianity.—John 13:35.

5 **Be Alert to Warn Others:** Keeping on the watch involves more than paying attention to ourselves. We have a commission to make disciples of others. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Love of neighbor should move us to warn others so that they may survive the destruction facing this world. This is a responsibility resting upon all Christians. It is an essential part of our worship. (Rom. 10: 9, 10; 1 Cor. 9:16) Often we encounter apathy or outright opposition to this lifesaving work. We have an obligation to persist, even if the majority ignore our warning. (Ezek. 33:8, 9) Genuine love for God and neighbor will move us to persevere.

6 This is no time for complacency. We should neither allow the everyday anxieties of life to distract us nor become so involved in the pleasures of this system that they prove to be a snare. (Luke 21:34, 35) If there ever was a need for a sense of urgency, it is now. The time is rapidly approaching for Jesus Christ to execute judgment against this wicked system. Only those who are awake, alert, and watchful will survive. If we obey Jesus' instructions and "succeed in escaping all these things," how thankful we will be!—Luke 21:36.

Are Jehovah's Reminders Rousing Us Spiritually?

1 The psalmist lauded Jehovah, saying: "Your reminders are a concern to me." (Ps. 119:99) The Hebrew word for "reminders" conveys the thought that Jehovah calls back to our minds what is stated in his laws, his orders, his regulations, his commandments, and his statutes. If we respond, they will rouse us spiritually and make us happy.—Ps. 119:2.

2 As Jehovah's people, we regularly receive admonition and counsel. Much of it we have heard before. Although we appreciate this encouragement, we are inclined to forget. (Jas. 1:25) Jehovah patiently provides loving reminders. The apostle Peter recorded some of these reminders in order to 'arouse our clear thinking faculties that we should remember the commandments of the Lord.'—2 Pet. 3:1, 2.

3 Again and again we are reminded about the importance of personal study and meeting attendance. This is done because these activities are so vital to our spiritual well-being.—1 Tim. 4:15; Heb. 10:24, 25.

4 The greatest challenge for some is fulfilling the Christian commission to preach. It takes effort, determination, and perseverance. Even though it requires much of us, we are helped to "stand firm" by having our "feet shod with the equipment of the good news." —Eph. 6:14, 15.

5 Our service has to be motivated by more than just mental awareness of Jehovah's requirements. The apostle Paul reminds us that the heart provides the motivation we need to make "public declaration for salvation." (Rom. 10:10) If we have strong faith and if our heart is inclined toward Jehovah's reminders, we will be compelled to speak out in giving praise to his name.—Ps. 119:36; Matt. 12:34.

6 When we work hard in performing good works, we rightly expect that this will bring us joy. (Eccl. 2:10) Paul identifies joy as a fruit of Jehovah's spirit, and we should seek to abound in displaying it. (Gal. 5:22) Peter added that an "earnest effort" will be rewarded with a fruitful ministry, which produces joy.—2 Pet. 1:5-8.

7 When we are faced with a challenge, we should remember the apostles' firm stand as they declared: "We cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20) We are strengthened to carry on when we remember that 'by doing these things, we will save both ourselves and those who listen to us.'—1 Tim. 4:16.

8 We do not chafe or feel resentment because of receiving constant reminders. Rather, we deeply appreciate their excelling value. (Ps. 119:129) In these critical times, we are thankful that Jehovah keeps sending us reminders to rouse us up spiritually and to motivate us to be zealous in fine works!—2 Pet. 1:12, 13.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JULY

Week Starting July 3

Song 194

10 min: Local announcements. Call attention to outstanding April field service report.

17 min: "Keep on the Watch." Questions and answers.

18 min: "Use a Variety of Brochures in Your Ministry." Discuss with audience the suggested presentations. Make brief comments about interesting features of the brochures. Have two or three brief demonstrations to show how they can be offered.

Song 213 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 10

Song 110

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Are Jehovah's Reminders Rousing Us Spiritually?" Questions and answers.

20 min: Making Opportunities to Witness. During the summer months, many of us have opportunity to travel in connection with conventions and vacations, and fine opportunities for informal witnessing arise. Using the *School Guidebook,* pages 80-2, paragraphs 11-16, review suggestions on how to initiate conversations with strangers. Show how advance preparation helps to get better results. Have three different publishers briefly demonstrate how to start a conversation with a gas station attendant, a passenger on public transportation, and a person standing in line at the supermarket. Remind all to keep record of those who show interest and arrange to have someone contact them later.

Song 154 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 17

Song 192

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

20 min: "Make Return Visits on All Brochure Placements." Brother assigned this part will discuss with three other publishers why it is important to follow up all interest and placements. They review the suggested presentations and demonstrate to one another how they can be used.

15 min: Conducting a Home Bible Study. A talk by elder who conducts progressive Bible studies. Encourage a greater effort to start Bible studies. Review suggestions offered in *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry,* pages 89-91. May include brief local experiences.

Song 164 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 24

Song 126

10 min: Local announcements. Review "New Circuit Assembly Program."

15 min: Local needs. Or give a talk on "Showing Christian Love to the Elderly," based on August 1, 1994, *Watchtower,* pages 27-30.

20 min: What Will the Neighbors Think? Talk and demonstration based on April 1, 1974, *Watchtower,* pages 201-3. Give a talk on why we are often pressured by our worldly neighbors. (Cover page 201 and first paragraph on page 202.) Then have a demonstration showing an experienced couple at a Bible study with a newly interested family that is being intimidated by worldly neighbors who oppose studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses. (Review main points in remainder of the article.) Stress reasons why newly interested family should not be discouraged or give up.

Song 169 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 31

Song 136

10 min: Local announcements. Theocratic News.

15 min: "Be Upbuilding." Discussion and talk by an elder.

20 min: Review Literature Offer for August. Mention 32-page brochures that may be used. Invite publishers to relate interesting experiences offering brochures during July. Demonstrate how to start a Bible study using the brochure *Does God Really Care About Us?* Raise question posed in paragraph 1 of Part 1. Get reaction of householder to thoughts expressed in paragraphs 2-4. Explain that the brochure shows that God really does care and that we can enjoy a life free from suffering in his coming new world. Offer to return for further discussion.

Song 179 and concluding prayer.

New Circuit Assembly Program

[1] Beginning in September, the theme for circuit assemblies will be "Listen and Learn to Carry Out God's Word." This theme, based on Deuteronomy 31:12, 13, provides a fitting basis for the entire program to highlight lessons we need to learn and apply.

[2] Although most people today listen to misleading inspired expressions, there is a vital need for each of us to listen to God's Word and learn to carry it out. (Luke 11:28; 1 Tim. 4:1) With this in mind, the circuit assembly program has been designed to provide encouragement and help for publishers, families, elders, and pioneers. On Saturday, there will be a four-part symposium on the subject "Coping With Our Problems—By Paying Attention to God's Word." And on Sunday morning, there will be a symposium entitled "How the Scriptures Discipline in Righteousness." The entire program will present spiritual encouragement that you and your family should not miss.

[3] On both Saturday and Sunday, practical suggestions for the field ministry will be offered and demonstrated. Encouraging and instructive experiences and interviews will also be presented. Thus, by being present and listening with a view to putting into practice what you learn, you will be in a better position to carry out fully the commands of God's Word.

[4] One of the highlights of the circuit assembly will be the baptism of newly dedicated brothers and sisters. Well before this public declaration of their dedication, the candidates should express their desire for baptism to the presiding overseer so that he can arrange for the elders to meet with them.

[5] The public talk for this circuit assembly series is entitled "Why Be Guided by the Bible?" Invite interested persons to attend. In anticipation of the much-needed encouragement and assistance you and your family will receive, make definite plans to be present for the entire program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New,"* *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. **September:** The *Live Forever* book will be used, and efforts should be made to start home Bible studies. **October:** Subscriptions for either *Awake!* or *The Watchtower*. Make special effort to place copies of the magazines. Subscriptions may be offered on return visits. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

■ Circuit overseers are currently giving the public talk entitled "Divine Teaching Triumphs Worldwide"—a slide presentation highlighting the special international "Divine Teaching" Conventions held recently. Circuit overseers will continue to give this talk until it has been presented in all the congregations in the circuit. When that is completed, they will give the talk "Trust in the God of All Comfort" until the first week in March, when the next new talk is scheduled to begin.

■ The Society is producing ENGLISH bound volumes of *The Watchtower* for the years 1951 to 1959. Any new publishers or new congregations that desire these publications may now request them through the congregation. These items will not be permanently stocked by the Society. Bound volumes are special-request items and should not be stocked by the congregations.

■ New Publications Available:

Happiness—How to Find It —Chinese (Simplified), Vietnamese
Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1990 —German

■ New Videocassettes Available:

You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth, (Volume 2) —American Sign Language

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**193**	**123.9**	**71.2**	**52.3**	**5.1**
Pios.	**73,103**	**82.5**	**35.0**	**25.9**	**2.6**
Aux. Pios.	**76,033**	**59.0**	**26.5**	**14.1**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**786,398**	**11.2**	**5.8**	**3.7**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**935,727**			Baptized:	**2,957**

Jehovah has richly blessed our united efforts in the field during the month of April. The 19,340,511 hours reported is a new peak and represents an increase of 3.5 percent over the previous peak of April 1989. The 5,910,318 return visits is also a new peak and represents an increase of 2.1 percent over the previous peak of April 1992. Our diligent efforts have resulted in congregation publishers averaging 11.2 hours in the ministry. We pray that Jehovah will bless our continued efforts to follow up the interest shown by those we contacted during the month of April.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
July 3:	**p. 147, ¶18**	**p. 150, ¶9**
July 10:	**p. 151, ¶10**	**p. 154, ¶20**
July 17:	**p. 155, ¶1**	**p. 158, ¶14**
July 24:	**p. 158, ¶15**	**p. 162, ¶6**
July 31:	**p. 162, ¶7**	**p. 166, ¶18**

THEOCRATIC NEWS

Cyprus: A new peak of 1,626 publishers was reached in February. Their special assembly day attendance was 2,249.

Philippines: A new peak of 119,549 publishers reported in February.

Rwanda: The "Godly Fear" District Convention was recently held in small groups with a total attendance of 6,062, and 178 were baptized.

Be Upbuilding

[1] Since we live in "critical times hard to deal with," all of us need encouragement. (2 Tim. 3:1) Keenly aware of this need even in his day, Paul was anxious to use contacts with his brothers as opportunities for "an interchange of encouragement." He urged his brothers to "pursue the things . . . that are upbuilding to one another." (Rom. 1: 11, 12; 14:19) These efforts succeeded in "strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to remain in the faith." (Acts 14:22) We sorely need that kind of encouragement today.

[2] We can be upbuilding to others by what we say. When used properly, our words can be "as apples of gold in silver carvings." (Prov. 25: 11) By participating in the meetings, we are "encouraging one another." (Heb. 10:25) Our tongue can be used in a positive way when we share experiences, give commendation, or discuss spiritual matters. Such wholesome use of the tongue 'is good for building up, imparting what is favorable to the hearers.'—Eph. 4:29.

[3] **Talk About Things That Are Upbuilding:** At Philippians 4:8, Paul provided helpful guidelines for our speech. He said we should consider whatever things are true, of serious concern, righteous, chaste, lovable, well spoken of, virtuous, and praiseworthy. We can always be sure that what we say will be true and beneficial to others if it is based on God's Word. (John 17:17) Our Christian dedication, what we learn at the congregation meetings, the way we fully accomplish our ministry, and other such matters are things of serious concern. Positive conversations about the standards and principles of God's Word are sure to help us become "wise for salvation." (2 Tim. 3:15) We can express our appreciation for the chaste conduct practiced by those in Jehovah's clean organization. We can extol the lovable acts of kindness by our brothers. (John 13:34, 35) Things that are well spoken of include the wholesome Christian qualities of faith, joy, peace, and long-suffering that we observe in our brothers. Conversation about such virtuous and praiseworthy things is 'good for the upbuilding' of others.—Rom. 15:2.

[4] Every day, we are confronted by the discouraging anxieties of the world. How refreshing to lay these things aside and share loving association with our brothers! The precious time we are able to spend together is a treasure to be cherished. If we are always encouraging and upbuilding, others will truthfully say of us: "They have refreshed my spirit."—1 Cor. 16:18.

Use a Variety of Brochures in Your Ministry

1 People today are interested in a variety of subjects. As you engage in field service during July, you could have with you several different brochures, using a specific one that would appeal to people in the territory. Perhaps you would like to try one of these presentations:

2 ***In offering the brochure "The Government That Will Bring Paradise," you could ask:***

■ "What do you think the world would be like if God were the only ruler? [Allow for response.] Having God take over the rulership of the earth is exactly what we are asking for when we pray the Lord's Prayer, or Our Father, that Jesus Christ taught us. [Turn to page 3, and read the first paragraph, which quotes Matthew 6:10.] If you would like to live in a world like that, you should read this brochure." Offer to leave it.

3 ***"When Someone You Love Dies" could be featured in this way:***

■ "Do you think the day will ever come when none of us will have to lose a loved one in death? [Allow for response.] This beautifully written brochure has comforted millions with the Bible's sure promise that such a day is coming in the near future. [Turn to page 5, and read the fifth paragraph, including 1 Corinthians 15:21, 22. Then turn to the illustration on page 30.] Here the artist has captured the joy we may experience in welcoming back our dead loved ones in the resurrection. But where will that happy scene take place? This brochure will show you the Bible's answer to that question." If the brochure is accepted, you might add: "I would like to return later and discuss this subject further."

4 ***You might feature the brochure "Look! I Am Making All Things New," using this direct approach to start a Bible study:***

■ "Many people have questions about the Bible. You may have wondered about the answer to one of these. [Open to page 30.] This last question has stirred the interest of many: 'How may you prepare for everlasting life in Paradise?'" If you discuss paragraphs 57-8 on pages 29-30 and read Revelation 21:3, 4, you will have laid the groundwork for starting a Bible study. Conclude by leaving the brochure and arranging for a return visit when you can discuss some of the other questions.

5 ***You might like to try this simple presentation with the brochure "The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever":***

■ "One of the first things I learned from the Bible was God's name. Do you know what it is? [Allow for response.] Let me show you. It's here in the Bible at Psalm 83:18. [Read.] This brochure shows how God's name, Jehovah, appears in many different languages. [Show the box on page 8.] If you would like to learn more about Jehovah and his purposes, you should read this brochure." Hand the brochure to the householder.

6 With such a variety of fine brochures to use, we certainly are well equipped "to tell good news to the meek ones."—Isa. 61:1.

Make Return Visits on All Brochure Placements

1 The apostle Paul commended the Philippians because they 'revived their thinking in his behalf.' (Phil. 4:10) If we use their example as a model for the field ministry, we will 'revive our thinking' in behalf of those to whom we witness and be prompted to make return visits.

2 ***If you placed the brochure "The Government That Will Bring Paradise," you might say something like this:***

■ "I was thinking about the conversation we had the other day, and two scriptures came to mind that I would like to share with you. You may recall that we talked about God taking over the rulership of the earth. In the Bible, Jehovah God has promised that this will take place. [Read Daniel 2:44.] Do you believe that could really happen? [Allow for response.] Listen to what God says about his ability to fulfill his promises. [Read Isaiah 55:11.] Shouldn't that encourage us to put our trust in God's Kingdom? But when will God fulfill his promises?" Explain that you will answer that question on your next visit.

3 ***You might take this approach when making a return visit on a person who took the brochure "When Someone You Love Dies":***

■ "I made a special effort to return, in view of our discussion about losing someone in death." Show illustration on page 30 as you say: "Remember this happy scene of people being resurrected and reunited with their loved ones? I left you with the question about where this is to take place, in heaven or on earth. Perhaps you found the Bible's answer on page 26 of this brochure." Discuss the main points in the third through the fifth paragraphs, and read John 5:21, 28, 29. As time permits, read any of the remaining scriptures on the page.

4 ***Did you start a study in "Look! I Am Making All Things New"? On the return visit, you could do this:***

■ Refer again to page 30, and point to the question: "In what ways is the Bible outstanding?" Turn to pages 3 and 4, and review paragraphs 1-4 as well as the illustration on the cover of the brochure. Read one or two scriptures cited in the footnote on paragraph 4. Explain that the Bible is the only book that offers such a marvelous hope. Make arrangements for your next visit. After the third session, if it looks like the study will continue, you can start reporting a new study!

5 ***You might resume a discussion on "The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever" this way:***

■ "Previously, I was able to show you God's name in the Bible. Knowing and using the name Jehovah is a vital part of our worship." Turn to page 31, review the main points in the last four paragraphs, and read John 17:3 and Micah 4:5. Explain that we provide a Bible study program that can show how God's name will be sanctified in a proper way and how we can enjoy the blessings of a paradise earth.

6 So, revive your thinking in behalf of those you have contacted. Be persistent in going back, and prepare something beneficial to share. You can be one "who really does bear fruit" in making new disciples.—Matt. 13:23.

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Our Kingdom Ministry (USPS 295-360) is published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., and International Bible Students Association, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Printed in U.S.A.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 8

What Sort of Persons Ought You to Be?

1 A time of accounting draws near for all mankind. The Bible calls it "the day of Jehovah." It is the time when divine judgment will be executed against the wicked; it is also a time of deliverance for the righteous. All persons then alive will be called to account for the way they have used their lives. With that in mind, Peter raises a probing question: "What sort of persons ought you to be"? He stresses the importance of 'holy acts of conduct, deeds of godly devotion, and keeping close in mind Jehovah's day,' as well as the need to be 'spotless, unblemished, and in peace.'—2 Pet. 3:11-14.

2 **Holy Acts of Conduct and Deeds of Godly Devotion:** Holy conduct includes exemplary works that show respect for Bible principles. (Titus 2:7, 8) A Christian must avoid worldly conduct that is motivated by selfish, fleshly desires.—Rom. 13:11, 14.

3 "Godly devotion" is described as "a personal attachment to God, springing from a heart stirred by a deep appreciation for his appealing qualities." Our zeal in the ministry is an outstanding way that we manifest this quality. Our motive in preaching goes beyond a mere sense of duty; it springs from a deep-seated love for Jehovah. (Mark 12:29, 30) Being motivated by such love, we view our ministry as a meaningful expression of our godly devotion. Since our devotion must be constant, our share in the preaching work should be consistent. It should be an integral part of our weekly schedule of activity.—Heb. 13:15.

4 Keeping Jehovah's day "close in mind" means keeping it foremost in our daily thoughts, never relegating it to a place of insignificance in the background. It means keeping Kingdom interests first in our lives.—Matt. 6:33.

5 **Spotless, Unblemished, and in Peace:** As part of the great crowd, we have 'washed our robes and made them white in the Lamb's blood.' (Rev. 7:14) Being "spotless" means, then, that we must steadfastly guard against our clean, dedicated lives being sprinkled with impurities from the world. We keep ourselves "unblemished" by refusing to let ungodly, materialistic pursuits disfigure our Christian personality. (Jas. 1:27; 1 John 2:15-17) We demonstrate that we are living "in peace" by reflecting "the peace of God" in all our dealings with others.—Phil. 4:7; Rom. 12:18; 14:19.

6 If we successfully guard against worldly contamination, we will never be "fashioned after this system of things," which has been condemned by Jehovah. Rather, our fine works will help others see the distinction "between one serving God and one who has not served him." —Rom. 12:2; Mal. 3:18.

7 Most of us have attended the "Joyful Praisers" District Convention, and the refreshing spiritual food has undoubtedly intensified our desire to demonstrate our godly devotion. Many new ones share this desire. We can be a blessing by helping them to participate in field service during August.

8 Jehovah's name is magnified, the congregation is strengthened, and others are benefited when we conscientiously maintain "fine works." (1 Pet. 2:12) May we always be that sort of person.

Christian Conduct in School

1 If you are a Christian youth still in school, you need strong faith to keep your integrity. You are being exposed to bad associates and to situations that can test your faith. It is important that you apply Peter's counsel to "maintain your conduct fine among the nations, that . . . they may as a result of your fine works of which they are eyewitnesses glorify God." (1 Pet. 2:12) You need courage and determination to meet this challenge.

2 In or out of school, you are bombarded by the contaminating influences of premarital sex, obscene language, tobacco, and abuse of drugs. Every day, you encounter temptations that threaten to corrupt your record of good conduct. Like adults, you must "put up a hard fight for the faith" if you are to endure such trials.—Jude 3; see July 15, 1991, *Watchtower*, pages 23-6.

3 At school, there are patriotic ceremonies and worldly holidays. Do you know what national and religious holidays are promoted in your school? If a challenging situation arises, could you "hold a good conscience, so that . . . they may get ashamed who are speaking slightingly of your good conduct"? —1 Pet. 3:16.

4 You may be tempted by the lure of school sports activities or social gatherings. You must be alert to recognize how these seemingly enjoyable activities can compromise your faith. There is a need to choose associates with whom you can enjoy "an interchange of encouragement," each one being built up through the other's faith.—Rom. 1:12.

5 **You Can Endure, With Jehovah's Help:** Satan is constantly testing your faith. The trials you must endure can be severe, but the rewards make it all worthwhile. (1 Pet. 1:6, 7) You cannot successfully endure on your own; you must look to Jehovah for help. Jesus urged his disciples: "Keep on the watch and pray continually, that you may not enter into temptation." (Matt. 26:41) Discipline and self-control are vital.—1 Cor. 9:27.

6 Always remember that you are accountable to Jehovah for your conduct. (Eccl. 11:9) Even though what you do may not be observed by others, Jehovah is aware of what you do and will render judgment. (Heb. 4:13) A sincere desire to please him should move you to 'work out your salvation with fear and trembling.' (Phil. 2:12) Reading God's Word daily is a great help. It is filled with excellent counsel and fine examples to imitate. —Heb. 12:1-3.

7 Parents, you play a vital role. You need to supervise your children, be aware of problems they face, and provide help when it is needed. Do you have a good rapport with your children? Have you inculcated in them an appreciative understanding of God's laws and principles? When faced with pressures or temptations, are your children strong, or do they give up easily? Do they get discouraged because they have to be different from their peers? As parents, you have the responsibility to help them. (Deut. 6:6, 7) If you do your job well, you can help them be victorious in the fight for the faith.—Prov. 22:6.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR AUGUST

Week Starting August 7

Song 118

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Point out articles in current issues of the magazines that might be featured in presentations.

15 min: "What Sort of Persons Ought You to Be?" Questions and answers.

20 min: "Be Teachers of God's Word —Using Brochures." Brother assigned this part will discuss with two or three other publishers various features of the brochures. They will then practice their presentations with one another.

Song 137 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 14

Song 124

5 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

10 min: Make the Best Use of School. Elder demonstrates how a parent might talk to teenage son or daughter about selecting study courses in school. Discuss need to choose subjects that will help in pursuing a career in the ministry.—See November 1, 1992, *Watchtower,* pages 16-18, paragraphs 3-11.

15 min: "Parents Who Rejoice!" Talk by elder. Include comments from August 15, 1987, *Watchtower,* pages 13-15, paragraphs 14-23.

15 min: "Christian Conduct in School." Questions and answers. Encourage parents to review the July 15, 1991, *Watchtower,* pages 23-6, with their children, especially the portions dealing with issues the children are likely to encounter.

Song 157 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 21

Song 148

10 min: Local announcements. "New Special Assembly Day Program." If it is known, announce date of next assembly. Encourage all to attend.

15 min: "Offering Ourselves Willingly for Every Good Work." Enthusiastic talk by elder on paragraphs 1-9.

20 min: "Offering Ourselves Willingly for Every Good Work." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 10-15. Point out local needs and ways that all can provide assistance.

Song 156 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 28

Song 173

10 min: Local announcements. Announce special field service arrangements for September 4.

15 min: "Successful Return Visits Require Effective Teaching." Review main points and have one or two brief demonstrations.

20 min: Offer the *Live Forever* Book During September. Explain how this book plays an important role in delivering Jehovah's judgment message. (See the April 1, 1988, *Watchtower,* pages 25-6, paragraphs 17-18.) Relate experience in paragraphs 3-4 on page 15 of the April 1, 1992, *Watchtower.* Call attention to striking illustrations appearing on pages 3, 11-13, and 156-8 of the book. Discuss ways these illustrations can be used to initiate conversations. Have a capable publisher demonstrate a brief presentation using one of the Scripture texts featured on pages 156-8. Emphasize the goal of trying to start Bible studies. Remind all to pick up copies for use this weekend.

Song 178 and concluding prayer.

Parents Who Rejoice!

[1] If you are a young person living in a Christian home, there is a special way you can make your parents happy. If you pursue a righteous course, "your father and your mother will rejoice." (Prov. 23:22-25) Your parents naturally want the best for you. Nothing could please them more than to see you make the truth your own and dedicate your life to Jehovah.

[2] You can be thankful to have parents who are in the truth. From your birth, they have fed, clothed, and housed you as well as nursed you through times of sickness. Even more important, they have endeavored to teach you about Jehovah and his righteous ways; this is training that can ensure your everlasting life. (Eph. 6: 1-4) How can you show your appreciation?

[3] **Make the Truth Your Own:** Your parents have tried to teach you to take the truth seriously, make spiritual progress, and keep close to Jehovah's organization. You can show appreciation by taking an interest in the family study without having to be coerced. Demonstrate a desire to attend meetings, taking the initiative on your own to get ready so that the family can arrive on time. Sit with your parents during the meetings, and pay close attention by following along in the publications being studied. Reach out for a share in the meetings by commenting. Show yourself to be a willing student in the Theocratic Ministry School, accepting assignments and doing your best to fulfill them. Volunteer to help care for tasks around the Kingdom Hall, where your assistance would be useful. Involvement in such activities can keep your heart focused on what is good for you spiritually.

[4] **Set Progressive Goals:** Reach out for a meaningful share in field service, showing a desire to qualify as a publisher. Keep up with the weekly Bible reading or, even better yet, read the entire Bible on your own. Make up your mind that you are going to meet the requirements for dedication and baptism. Your parents can help you to plan your curriculum in school carefully, with a view toward acquiring training that will equip you for a full share in Jehovah's service. Concentrate on developing the kind of reputation that will prompt others to recommend you for special privileges such as pioneering or Bethel service. (Acts 16:1, 2) Achieving goals can help you "make sure of the more important things, so that you may be . . . filled with righteous fruit."—Phil. 1:10, 11.

[5] Youth is a time to learn, to gain experience, and to acquire skills in dealing with others. It is a time when you can enjoy life without all of the pressures and responsibilities that come with adulthood. Solomon said: "Rejoice, young man, in your youth, and let your heart do you good in the days of your young manhood." (Eccl. 11:9) If you set your heart on serving Jehovah in your youth, you will reap blessings that will last forever.—1 Chron. 28:9.

[6] If you "pursue righteousness" instead of "the desires incidental to youth," you will relieve your parents of a heavy burden of anxiety and heartache. (2 Tim. 2:22) You will give your own heart cause to rejoice. (Prov. 12:25) Most of all, you will bring joy to your Creator, Jehovah God.—Prov. 27:11.

Offering Ourselves Willingly for Every Good Work

[1] A worldly publication made reference to Jehovah's Witnesses, saying: "It would be difficult to find members of any other group who work as hard at their religion as do the Witnesses." Why do Jehovah's Witnesses work so hard and with such a willing spirit?

[2] One reason is that they are imbued with a sense of urgency. Jesus recognized that he had a limited time in which to finish his work on earth. (John 9:4) While the glorified Son of God goes subduing in the midst of his enemies today, Jehovah's people realize that they have a limited time to do their work. Therefore, they keep offering themselves willingly for sacred service. (Ps. 110:1-3) With more workers needed to bring in the harvest, there can be no letup in their efforts. (Matt. 9:37, 38) Hence, they endeavor to imitate Jesus, who set a perfect example of willingness and diligence in his work. —John 5:17.

[3] Another reason Jehovah's Witnesses work whole-souled as to Jehovah is that their worldwide organization is different from all other groups. Worldly religious organizations typically require only a minimum of time and effort from their adherents. What they believe has little or no effect on their daily lives, their dealings with others, or their pursuits in life. Lacking the motivating power of true faith, they have insisted that their shepherds 'speak to them smooth things,' assuring them that their token effort is sufficient. (Isa. 30:10) Their clergy have obliged by 'tickling their ears,' instilling a spirit of apathy and spiritual laziness.—2 Tim. 4:3.

[4] What a contrast among Jehovah's people! Everything about our worship involves effort, exertion, and work. Every day and in everything we do, we practice what we believe. While the truth brings us much joy, it involves "a great deal of struggling" for us to fulfill what it requires. (Compare 1 Thessalonians 2:2.) Just caring for the responsibilities of daily living is enough to keep most people busy. However, we do not allow these concerns to prevent us from putting Kingdom interests first.—Matt. 6:33.

[5] What we are given to do in Jehovah's service is so beneficial and urgent that we are moved to 'buy out' time from other pursuits and use it more profitably on spiritual matters. (Eph. 5:16) Knowing that our godly devotion and willing spirit please Jehovah, we have the greatest incentive to keep on with our hard work. With the rich blessings we receive now and prospects of the life to come, our determination is to continue "working hard and exerting ourselves" in behalf of Kingdom interests.—1 Tim. 4:10.

[6] **Devotion and the Spirit of Self-Sacrifice:** Most people today give material needs and interests priority over everything else. They feel fully justified in focusing attention on what they will eat, drink, or wear. (Matt. 6:31) Not being content with necessities, they are motivated by the goal of enjoying good living to the full now and 'having many good things laid up for many years, so they can take their ease, eat, drink, and enjoy themselves.' (Luke 12:19) The typical churchgoer feels that any personal effort required by his religion is an encroachment upon his rights. The idea of abandoning or even curtailing some materialistic pursuit or giving up a pleasurable interest is repugnant. With his thinking centered upon himself, cultivating a spirit of self-sacrifice is unreal, impractical.

[7] We view this matter differently. God's Word has elevated our thinking so that we think God's thoughts instead of those of men. (Isa. 55:8, 9) We have goals in life that transcend fleshly pursuits. The vindication of Jehovah's sovereignty and the sanctification of his name are the most important issues in the entire universe. The magnitude of these issues is so great that, in comparison, all the nations "are as something nonexistent in front of him." (Isa. 40:17) Any attempt to live our lives in a way that ignores God's will must be viewed as foolishness.—1 Cor. 3:19.

[8] So while some material things are needed and others are useful in carrying on our Kingdom activities, we perceive that these are not really "the more important things." (Phil. 1:10) We adhere to the spirit of 1 Timothy 6:8 in limiting our pursuit of material interests and wisely endeavoring to keep our hearts focused on 'the things unseen that are everlasting.'—2 Cor. 4:18.

[9] The more we think God's thoughts, the less anxiety we have about material things. When we contemplate what Jehovah has done for us already and the marvelous blessings he has promised for the future, we are willing to make any sacrifice he asks of us. (Mark 10:29, 30) We owe our very existence to him. Were it not for his mercy and love, we would have no enjoyment of life now and no future whatever. We feel obliged to give of ourselves, since everything we are doing in his service 'is what we *ought* to be doing.' (Luke 17:10) Anything we are asked to give back to Jehovah, we part with cheerfully, knowing that we will "reap bountifully."—2 Cor. 9:6, 7.

[10] **Willing Workers Are Needed Now:** From its very beginning, the Christian congregation entered into a period of intense activity. A thorough witness had to be given before the overthrow of Jerusalem in 70 C.E. During that time Jesus' disciples were "intensely occupied with the word." (Acts 18:5) Rapid expansion made it necessary to train more evangelizers and skilled shepherds and to enlist their help. Men with experience in dealing with secular authorities as well as capable ones able to supervise the collection and distribution of material things were needed. (Acts 6:1-6; Eph. 4:11) While a few served prominently, most remained in the background. But all of them 'exerted themselves vigorously,' working together wholeheartedly to get the work done. —Luke 13:24.

[11] Although there was relatively little need for vigorous activity on a worldwide scale during the many centuries that followed, a great revival of Kingdom activity began when Jesus took his Kingdom power in 1914. At first, few realized that the need for workers in behalf of Kingdom interests would become so great, requiring

the help of millions of willing ones in lands all around the globe.

[12] Today the organization is deeply involved in a great variety of projects that have taxed our resources to their limits. Kingdom activity is moving ahead on a grand scale. The urgency of our times moves us to exert ourselves and to use every asset at our disposal to accomplish the work at hand. With the end of the entire wicked system of things drawing so near, we anticipate even more intense activity in the days ahead. Every dedicated servant of Jehovah is being called upon to offer himself willingly in the urgent ingathering work.

[13] **What Needs to Be Done?** We can truthfully say that there is "plenty to do in the work of the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58) In many territories the harvest is ripe, but the workers are few. We are invited to do our part not only in being more thorough in witnessing throughout our own territory but also in meeting the challenge of serving where there is a greater need.

[14] It is commendable to see how Witnesses in all parts of the world offer themselves willingly for other activities. These may range from volunteering in the construction of places of worship, serving at conventions, and assisting with relief efforts in times of disaster to cleaning the local Kingdom Hall on a regular basis. In connection with the latter activity, there is the matter of always making sure the Kingdom Hall is left in a clean and orderly condition after each meeting. Completing tasks that may be considered menial demonstrates a proper understanding of Jesus' words at Luke 16:10: "The person faithful in what is least is faithful also in much, and the person unrighteous in what is least is unrighteous also in much."

■ **Giving Support to the Activities of the Congregation:** While each congregation functions as part of the overall organization and receives direction from "the faithful and discreet slave," it is made up of individual Kingdom publishers. (Matt. 24:45) Its accomplishments depend largely on how much each Witness is willing and able to do. The congregation focuses on getting the good news preached in its territory, making new disciples, and then strengthening them spiritually. Each one of us can contribute toward this work. We can also set goals for ourselves in personal study, meaningful participation in the meetings, and assistance to others in need within the congregation. These activities offer many fine opportunities for us to demonstrate our willingness.

■ **Taking the Lead in Positions of Oversight:** Jehovah has entrusted the supervision of each congregation to its appointed elders. (Acts 20:28) These are men who have reached out in order to qualify for this privilege. (1 Tim. 3:1) Virtually every brother in the congregation has some potential for qualifying for greater responsibilities. Many brothers are developing spiritually and need to keep growing under the guidance and loving assistance of the congregation elders. These men should be diligent students of the Bible and our publications. They can demonstrate their willingness by being submissive to the spirit-appointed elders, imitating their faith, and cultivating the qualities looked for in overseers.—Heb. 13:7, 17.

■ **Taking Up the Full-Time Service:** The congregation functions primarily to preach the good news. (Matt. 24:14) What a blessing when zealous ones intensify their efforts by enrolling as pioneers! This usually involves making adjustments in their personal life. Additional adjustments may be required for them to continue in this special field of service. But those who hold on to this privilege instead of giving up after a year or so because of some temporary discouragement are sure to experience Jehovah's rich blessing. Loving elders and other mature ones can contribute to the success of the pioneers, encouraging them by word and deed. What a fine spirit is demonstrated by young people who go directly into the pioneer work upon finishing school! The same is true of adults who enroll as regular pioneers as soon as their secular obligations are reduced. What satisfaction it brings to a dedicated Christian when he thus cooperates with Jehovah's speeding up of the ingathering work!—Isa. 60:22.

■ **Sharing in the Construction and Maintenance of Meeting Places:** Literally hundreds of modern Kingdom Halls as well as many Assembly Halls have been constructed. Amazingly, almost all the work has been done by our brothers and sisters who have willingly volunteered their time and skills. (1 Chron. 28:21) Thousands of willing workers keep these facilities in good repair by performing whatever tasks may be required. (2 Chron. 34:8) Since this work is one aspect of sacred service, those assisting offer themselves willingly, not asking to be reimbursed for their service in this regard, any more than they would ask to be paid to preach from house to house, give public talks in the congregation, or help with assembly or convention work. These volunteers freely offer their services in planning and constructing places of worship to Jehovah's praise. They eagerly assist with such things as completing legal documents, keeping records of accounts, making purchasing contacts, and calculating the amount of materials needed. These loyal servants of Jehovah do not add some type of overhead charge or in any way seek to profit materially either directly or indirectly from services they render, since all their talents and resources are dedicated to Jehovah. (See February 1992 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4, paragraph 10.) This activity requires diligent workers who perform their services "whole-souled as to Jehovah."—Col. 3:23.

[15] What is it, then, that makes the willingness of Jehovah's people unique? It is the spirit of *giving*. Their generous giving involves more than money or material things—they "offer *themselves* willingly." (Ps. 110:3) This is the essence of our dedication to Jehovah. We are rewarded in a special way. We experience "more happiness" and we "reap bountifully" because what we do is appreciated by others, who give to us in return. (Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:6; Luke 6:38) Our greatest Benefactor is our heavenly Father, Jehovah, who "loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7) He will repay us a hundredfold, with blessings that will last forever. (Mal. 3:10; Rom. 6:23) So when privileges in Jehovah's service are made available to you, will you volunteer yourself willingly and answer as did Isaiah: "Here I am! Send me"?—Isa. 6:8.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of May 1 to August 21, 1995. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Worship of God is a personal matter and does not depend in any way on our relationship with others. (1 John 4:20) [*uw* p. 134 par. 7]
2. The governing body's counsel to Gentile Christians that they abstain from idolatry, blood, and fornication was based on the Mosaic Law. (Acts 15: 28, 29) [*uw* p. 149 par. 8]
3. Originally, the Law of Moses was to be binding on all mankind. (Ps. 147: 19, 20) [*uw* p. 147 par. 5]
4. Chapter 53 of Isaiah, written some 700 years before the birth of Christ, is like a vivid eyewitness account describing Jesus Christ and the way that he was treated. [*si* p. 119 par. 8]
5. Brother Russell expressed deep disappointment that he was not taken to heaven in 1914. [*jv* p. 62 par. 3]
6. There is no worldly source that can equal the sound advice that the Bible gives on family matters. [*uw* p. 144 par. 11]
7. The book of Proverbs gets to the heart of our problems in counseling that we put our complete trust in God. [*si* p. 111 par. 35]
8. At a convention held in Washington, D.C., in 1935, it was pointed out clearly that the modern-day Jonadabs did not have to show the same degree of faithfulness to Jehovah as do the anointed. [*jv* p. 83 par. 5, p. 84 par. 1]
9. When problems arise in marriage, a true Christian will not seize on his mate's shortcomings as an excuse for sidestepping his own responsibilities. [*uw* pp. 140-1 pars. 4, 5]
10. Solomon's declaration in the book of Ecclesiastes that all is vanity applies to everything without exception. [*si* p. 114 par. 15]

Answer the following questions:

11. What bold educational venture did Brother Russell and his associates embark on in 1912? [*jv* p. 59 par. 5, p. 60 footnote]
12. What did the tests that came upon the Bible Students from 1914 to 1918 reveal? [*jv* p. 61 par. 1]
13. What highly significant milestone was reached at a convention held in Columbus, Ohio, in 1931? (Isa. 43:12) [*jv* p. 79 par. 4, p. 82 par. 2]
14. What Scriptural insight was revealed in 1942 in the talk "Peace—Can It Last?," and why was the title of this talk so thought provoking? [*jv* p. 93 par. 2]
15. In 1943, congregations were urged to start what new school, leading to what result? [*jv* p. 94 pars. 2, 3]
16. In addition to blood transfusion, name three other ways that a person could become bloodguilty before God. [*uw* pp. 155-6 pars. 3-6]
17. In harmony with Proverbs 1:2-4, what does the book of Proverbs highlight? [*si* p. 109 par. 19]
18. Name two sound-transmitting mediums that the Society used extensively in the 1920's and 1930's to get the good news preached. [*jv* pp. 80-1, 87]
19. When did the first Kingdom Ministry

School class begin, and what was its purpose? [*jv* p. 102 par. 3]

20. What practical lessons are taught in the beautiful Song of Solomon? [*si* p. 117 par. 16]

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. Brother Russell finished his earthly course October 31, 1916, and ________ became the next president of the Society. [*jv* p. 63 par. 3, p. 65 par. 2]
22. In 1917 and 1918, the Bible Students energetically distributed the book ________, and because of clergy-inspired opposition, Brother Rutherford and seven associates found themselves in the ________ in Atlanta, Georgia. [*jv* p. 69 par. 3, p. 70 par. 1]
23. In a letter that was read to the brothers assembled for the annual meeting of the Watch Tower Society in 1919, Brother Rutherford wrote from prison that "Satan's chief weapons are ________, ________, and ________." [*jv* p. 72 par. 3, p. 73 par. 7]
24. In 1922 at the international convention at Cedar Point, Ohio, Brother Rutherford declared: "The world must know that Jehovah is God and that Jesus Christ is King of kings . . . Therefore ________, ________, ________, the ________ and his ________." [*jv* p. 72 par. 1]
25. Brother Rutherford finished his earthly course on January 8, 1942, and five days later, Brother ________ became president of the Society. [*jv* p. 89 par. 3, p. 90 par. 3]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. Gilead school for missionaries was established in (1919; 1935; 1943). [*jv* p. 95 par. 2]
27. The *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures* was first released in (1946; 1950; 1953), and in it the divine name, Jehovah, was restored a total of (154; 193; 237) times. [*jv* p. 99 par. 2]
28. Evidence that Solomon was the writer of Ecclesiastes can be seen in that (his name occurs throughout the book; writers of other Bible books name him as its writer; the book itself establishes Solomon as the writer without naming him). [*si* p. 112 par. 4]
29. In 1932 it was explained that Jehonadab (Jonadab), King Jehu's associate, prefigured a class of people who would (compose a secondary heavenly class; enjoy everlasting life on earth; not take a firm stand for the truth). [*jv* p. 83 par. 3]
30. The Song of Solomon highlights (Solomon's role as king; Solomon's great riches; a country girl's faithfulness to a shepherd boy). [*si* p. 115 par. 2]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Prov. 22:3; Eccl. 7:21, 22; Isa. 13: 19, 20; Matt. 5:23, 24; Col. 3:18-20, 23, 24

31. Though Jehovah does not automatically protect his people from accidents, civil strife, or crime, the exercising of Bible-based practical wisdom can be of value. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 1/1 p. 17 par. 23.]
32. There is good reason never to doubt the fulfillment of inspired prophecy. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*93 5/15 p. 6.]
33. A true Christian goes out of his way to promote peaceful relations with his brothers. [*uw* p. 135 par. 10]
34. Progress in family relations comes, not by each one waiting for the other person to do something, but by each one doing his own part well, thus showing that he personally practices godly devotion at home. [*uw* p. 143 par. 10]
35. Do not unrealistically expect perfection of yourself or of your relationships with other imperfect humans. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*90 3/1 p. 8.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature to be used during **August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New,"* *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. **September:** The *Live Forever* book will be used. Efforts should be made to start home Bible studies. **October:** Subscriptions for either *Awake!* or *The Watchtower*. Make special effort to place copies of the magazines. Subscriptions may be offered on return visits. **November:** Offer the *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

- An adequate supply of forms for use during the 1996 service year is being sent to each congregation. These forms should not be wasted. They should be used only for their intended purpose.

- Each congregation will receive three Literature Inventory forms (S(d)-18). The congregation secretary should meet with the literature servant early in August and set a date for taking inventory of the congregation's stock of literature at the end of the month. An actual count must be made of all literature in stock, and the totals are to be entered on the Literature Inventory form. The total number of magazines on hand can be obtained from the magazine servant. *Please mail the original to the Society no later than September 6.* Keep a carbon copy for your files. The third copy may be used as a work sheet. The inventory should be supervised by the secretary, and the completed form should be checked by the presiding overseer. The secretary and the presiding overseer will sign the form.

- Congregations should begin requesting the *1996 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their September literature request. The calendars will be available in Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

- From August 29, 1995, to September 1, 1995, the Society will be taking an inventory of all literature on hand in Brooklyn. Because of this inventory, no congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup during those days.

- New Publications Available:

Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand! —Ukrainian
United in Worship of the Only True God —Chinese (Simplified)
Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1993 —Spanish
Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1994 —English
What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? (Tract No. 16) —Indonesian
What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It? —Macedonian
Why Should We Worship God in Love and Truth? (for Hindus) —Punjabi
Will There Ever Be a World Without War? (for Jews) —Italian, Portuguese

- New Audiocassettes Available:

Doing What Is Right in Jehovah's Eyes —Japanese
Genesis (set of four audiocassettes) —Swedish
The Second to the Corinthians, To the Galatians (single audiocassette) —Portuguese

- New Videocassettes Available:

The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy —Japanese

New Special Assembly Day Program

[1] Why should we declare the good news without letup? What are the requirements for being a preacher of the good news? How can even shy or timid ones take the initiative in sharing the good news with others? These and other thought-provoking questions will be answered in the special assembly day program starting in September, with the theme "Qualified as Ministers of the Good News." —Compare 2 Corinthians 3:5.

[2] As Jehovah's people, we must be circumspect about our behavior. Encouraging experiences will be given by young people who will relate how they have resisted peer pressure. Parents will be provided with loving encouragement regarding the need to train their children as ministers of God. All of us will be helped to appreciate the necessity to preach and the blessings that accrue both to ourselves and to those who listen to us.—1 Tim. 4:16.

[3] Surely the baptism will be a highlight of the day. Prior to this event, a Bible-based talk will be directed specifically to newly dedicated persons. Of course, all present will want to pay careful attention as the subject of baptism is discussed and its meaning made clear. Any who desire to be baptized at the special assembly day should make this known to the presiding overseer well in advance so that he will have sufficient time to arrange for elders to review the designated questions with baptismal candidates.

[4] Another highlight will be the principal talk delivered by a guest speaker. It is entitled "Qualified and Equipped as God's Ministers." Four main provisions that equip us as ministers will be discussed, and the talk will include faith-building experiences.

[5] Plan now to be in attendance for the entire program. Be sure to invite interested persons and Bible students so that they too can benefit from this day of theocratic education. In this way we can make sure that we are "adequately qualified" as ministers of the good news.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
August 7:	**p. 167, ¶ 19**	**p. 171, ¶ 29**
August 14:	**p. 171, ¶ 1**	**p. 175, ¶ 11**
August 21:	**p. 175, ¶ 12**	**p. 178, ¶ 6**
August 28:	**p. 178, ¶ 7**	**p. 182, ¶ 20**

MAY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**189**	**125.3**	**53.7**	**47.6**	**5.0**
Pios.	**71,313**	**82.3**	**24.6**	**22.4**	**2.5**
Aux. Pios.	**46,719**	**59.1**	**15.9**	**12.3**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**812,008**	**11.4**	**4.1**	**3.4**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**930,229**			Baptized:	**2,280**

Jehovah has richly blessed our united efforts in presenting *Kingdom News* No. 34. Our diligent efforts have resulted in congregation publishers averaging 11.4 hours in the ministry. We pray Jehovah's continued blessing on our work of following up the interest shown by those contacted during the campaign.

Be Teachers of God's Word —Using Brochures

[1] Every dedicated servant of Jehovah has a responsibility to share in the work of teaching the Word of God to others. The seriousness of this responsibility becomes clear when we appreciate that it is the one with all authority in heaven and on the earth who has given us the commission to "make disciples of people of all the nations, . . . teaching them." (Matt. 28:18-20) So, sharing in the preaching of the good news requires that we become teachers!—2 Tim. 2:2.

[2] During August we can use our teaching skills when offering brochures. We can pick out some interesting Scriptural thoughts in them and prepare a few comments that will help us get a conversation started.

[3] ***When offering the brochure "Does God Really Care About Us?" you could say:***

■ "We have called on many of your neighbors and found that they are concerned about the sharp increase in crime, terrorism, and violence. In your opinion, why has this become such a problem? [Allow for response.] It is of special interest to us that the Bible predicted this would happen. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-3.] Note that this is to take place in 'the last days.' This implies that something is about to come to an end. What do you think it is?" Allow for response. Turn to page 22, point out the illustration, and discuss one or two scriptures quoted on that page. Make arrangements to return later to explain why we believe these blessings are near at hand.

[4] ***You might like to use this approach when offering the brochure "What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?":***

■ "Many people experience difficulty in trying to find a real purpose in living. While a few enjoy some limited happiness, most live lives that are filled with disappointment and suffering. Do you think this is the way God intended for us to live? [Allow for response.] The Bible shows that God wants us to live in a world like this." Point to the illustration on page 21, and then turn to pages 25 and 26, paragraphs 4-6, and explain what he has promised. Raise this question for discussion when you return: "How can we be sure that God will fulfill his promises?"

[5] ***You might offer the brochure "Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!" by displaying the full picture on the front and back covers and asking:***

■ "Would you like to live in a world full of happy people like this? [Allow for response.] The Bible tells us that God loves people and wants them to live forever in happiness on this earth." Turn to picture number 49, and read one of the cited Scripture texts. Then, point to picture number 50, and explain what we must do if we want to live in this Paradise. Offer to return and discuss why faith in Jesus Christ is so important.

[6] Jehovah is pleased when we make our 'advancement manifest by paying attention to our teaching.' (1 Tim. 4:15, 16) Our brochures can be a real help to us in our efforts to assist those who yearn to hear "good news of something better."—Isa. 52:7.

Successful Return Visits Require Effective Teaching

[1] Return visits are an important and joyful part of our field ministry. Why should we be diligent to call back on interested ones? Jehovah's name is made known and is honored by this disciple-making work, and God-fearing ones are helped to find the way to life. (2 Cor. 2:17–3:3) Recognizing that both the sanctification of Jehovah's name and the lives of others are involved should move us to prepare well before going back.

[2] A good teacher will help the student build on the foundation already laid. Just as a schoolteacher builds on the knowledge students gain from day to day, we should usually follow up our initial call with further comments on the same subject. This makes for continuity of thought and for progressive thinking.

[3] ***When you return after placing the brochure "Does God Really Care About Us?" you may find this effective:***

■ "On my previous visit, we were discussing 'the last days' mentioned in the Bible and what that means for us. You may wonder how we know that we are living in the last days. (2 Tim. 3:1) Jesus' disciples were anxious to get the answer to that question. [Read Matthew 24:3.] In his reply, Jesus described conditions that we see about us today. These include distress and violence as never seen before." Point out the feature of the sign discussed in paragraphs 3 and 4 on page 19. If the response is good, point out other features of the sign in paragraphs 5 to 8 on page 20. Offer to return and answer the questions raised on the front of the brochure.

[4] ***To follow up interest in the brochure "What Is the Purpose of Life —How Can You Find It?" you might say:***

■ "I have been anxious to resume our conversation about our purpose in living. I think we both agree that God intended for us to live on this earth in happy and peaceful conditions rather than in the turmoil we experience today. Do you think he will fulfill his promise?" Allow for response. Read Isaiah 55:11, and then discuss the thoughts in paragraphs 25 to 27 on page 30. Recommend a personal Bible study as the best way to find a worthwhile purpose in life.

[5] ***To follow up previous interest shown in the brochure "Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!" you could display it again and say:***

■ "We talked about the beautiful world depicted on the cover of this brochure. I want to tell you why faith in Jesus Christ is so important to people who want to live there." Turn to picture 41, and read Isaiah 9:6. Refer to picture 62, and read John 3:16, stressing the need for obedience. Explain that Jehovah's Witnesses are helping people learn how to exercise faith by studying the Bible and trying to live by its counsel.

[6] After each return visit, analyze it with a view to improving your effectiveness. Ask yourself: Did I have something definite in mind to say? Did I keep attention focused on the Bible? Did I build on the foundation laid on the initial call? Was my presentation designed to lead into a Bible study? Positive answers give assurance that you are striving to be a good teacher of God's Word.

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Our Kingdom Ministry (USPS 295-360) is published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., and International Bible Students Association, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Printed in U.S.A.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 9

DISTRICT CONVENTION SOUNDS A STIRRING CALL!

Joyfully Praise Jehovah From Day to Day!

[1] "If the trumpet sounds an indistinct call, who will get ready for battle?" asked the apostle Paul. (1 Cor. 14:8) Was the call that went out at the "Joyful Praisers" District Convention loud and clear? Yes, indeed. 'Praise Jehovah joyfully and daily' was the rousing message! Was your heart stirred by this call to action? The convention program abounded with powerful reasons for our constantly praising the King of eternity, Jehovah.—Ps. 35: 27, 28.

[2] The awesome heavens declare Jehovah's glory "one day after another day." (Ps. 19:1-3) If voiceless, inanimate creations constantly give praise to Jehovah, should not we intelligent humans feel moved to lift our voices in praise to him at all times for his incomparable qualities and accomplishments? Who is more deserving of our joyful praise than our magnificent Creator?—Ps. 145:3, 7.

[3] **From Day to Day:** The inspired psalmist wrote: "From day to day tell the good news of salvation by him. For Jehovah is great and very much to be praised." (Ps. 96:2, 4) Does this apply only to pioneers? No! Does this mean that all of us should talk to others about Jehovah whenever and wherever we can, even on days we are not engaged in the house-to-house ministry? Yes! The need to praise Jehovah daily and tell others about his means of salvation is urgent. People must know that Jehovah is the King Eternal and that He has given world rulership to His glorified Son, Jesus Christ. Love for Jehovah and for people will keep us talking about this message and about his provisions for salvation wherever people can be found.—Ps. 71:15. Read

[4] Every day of his earthly ministry, Jesus Christ set the finest example as a forthright praiser of Jehovah. He said: "I publicly praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth." (Matt. 11:25) True to his word, wherever Jesus was, he publicly praised Jehovah. And wherever crowds would gather—whether in the synagogues, at the temple in Jerusalem, on a mountaintop, or at the seashore—he praised Jehovah. If we closely follow Jesus' footsteps by maintaining daily, consistent activity in publicly exalting Jehovah, we will experience joyful, happy results.

[5] **Answering the Call:** Will you answer the call to praise Jehovah publicly each day? Remember, age is no barrier. Psalm 148:12 invites young men, virgins, old men, and boys to praise Jehovah. Young ones, will you praise Jehovah among schoolmates and teachers during this new school year? Adults, are those you work with at your place of employment hearing about Jehovah and his purposes, when there is an appropriate occasion to talk together? All of us should make talking about Jehovah as much a part of our life as is breathing and eating. Even if apathetic people do not pay attention to what we say, there is One who does, and he will reward us.—Mal. 3:16. Read

[6] As the system's end draws near, the call goes out to the ends of the earth: "Praise Jah, you people!" (Ps. 106:1) May our shout of praise grow louder with each passing day so that all will know that the One whose name is Jehovah is the Most High over all the earth.—Ps. 83:18.

Examined by Jehovah—Why Beneficial?

[1] Everyone desires good health. It makes life much more enjoyable. Yet, many who enjoy good health still get a checkup occasionally. Why? They seek to detect any developing health problems so that measures can be taken to remedy them. It is even more important to safeguard our spiritual health. Jehovah's approval depends on our keeping "healthy in the faith." —Titus 1:13.

[2] Now is an appropriate time to be examined by Jehovah. Why so? Because Jehovah is in his holy temple, and he is examining the hearts of all men. (Ps. 11:4, 5; Prov. 17:3) Like David, we ask Jehovah to give us a thorough examination: "Examine me, O Jehovah, and put me to the test; refine my kidneys and my heart."—Ps. 26:2.

[3] We must guard against threats to our spiritual health that may come from within us because of our imperfect flesh. Proverbs 4:23 counsels: "More than all else that is to be guarded, safeguard your heart, for out of it are the sources of life."

[4] Our spiritual health can also be threatened by the corrupt, immoral world that surrounds us. If we allow ourselves to get too close to this wicked system, we could begin to think as it does and develop worldly attitudes. Or we might adopt a worldly life-style and be overcome by the spirit of the world.—Eph. 2:2, 3.

[5] Satan may use persecution or direct opposition in an effort to devastate us spiritually. Far more often, however, he craftily uses worldly attractions to seduce us. Peter urges us to 'keep our senses and be watchful,' since Satan is "like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone." We are urged to 'take a stand against him, remaining solid in the faith.'—1 Pet. 5: 8, 9.

[6] There is a need to protect our spiritual health, keeping our faith strong by strengthening it each day. The apostle Paul recommends that we test our faith continually. Just as we wisely heed practical advice given to us by a competent doctor, we also listen to Jehovah when His spiritual examination reveals a problem that needs to be corrected. This makes it possible for us "to be readjusted."—2 Cor. 13:5, 11.

[7] Jehovah is truly the great Examiner. His diagnosis is always accurate. He knows exactly what we need. Through his Word and 'the faithful slave,' he prescribes a healthful spiritual diet. (Matt. 24:45; 1 Tim. 4:6) Regular feeding on this diet of nutritious spiritual food at home and at congregation meetings enables us to keep spiritually healthy. Regular spiritual exercise in the ministry and other Christian activity is also beneficial. Therefore, we welcome a regular examination by Jehovah, confident that he will keep us in the best of spiritual health.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Week Starting September 4

Song 224

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

20 min: "District Convention Sounds a Stirring Call!—Joyfully Praise Jehovah From Day to Day!" Questions and answers.

15 min: "Help Others to Benefit Themselves." Review suggested presentations, and then have two brief demonstrations.

Song 204 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 11

Song 216

5 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

22 min: "Maintaining a Balanced View of Computer Technology." Insert. Questions and answers. Read key paragraphs, such as 4-8 and 12-13, as time permits.

18 min: "What Goals Have You Set for Your Children?" Questions and answers. Have one or two exemplary youths or older ones who have served Jehovah from their youth relate briefly how their parents helped them to choose worthwhile goals centered around Kingdom interests.

Song 187 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 18

Song 168

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Make the Best Use of Our Magazines." Animated talk by service overseer, based on paragraphs 1 to 13 of insert.

20 min: "Follow Up All Interest to Benefit Others." Review presentations suggested for return visits. Brother handling this part discusses with two or three publishers what they will say and then asks them to demonstrate their presentations.

Song 162 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 25

Song 177

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Do All Things for God's Glory." Talk and audience discussion conducted by an elder. As time permits, make additional comments based on the August 15, 1992, *Watchtower*, pages 15-20.

10 min: "Examined by Jehovah—Why Beneficial?" Encouraging talk by elder.

15 min: "Make the Best Use of Our Magazines." Discuss with audience paragraphs 14 to 17 of insert. Stress making special effort to distribute *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* during October. Since the magazines are published in a variety of languages, we should tell foreign-language-speaking persons that the magazines are available in their native language. (The local foreign-language congregation assigned to that territory should be informed.) In frequently worked territory, distributing our magazines can be the most effective means of cultivating interest, since they provide fresh information on a weekly basis. Where interest is found on return visits, offer a subscription. Have a family group demonstrate a practice session, as described in paragraph 14. Also, point out some practical suggestions for increasing placements.

Song 193 and concluding prayer.

Do All Things for God's Glory

[1] How refreshing it is to associate with our dear brothers and sisters! (1 Cor. 16:17, 18) We do this at meetings, at assemblies, at conventions, and in the field ministry. We also fellowship on informal occasions, as when we have guests visit in our home. Doing so, we show hospitality and encourage one another. (Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9) When arranging wedding receptions, keep in mind the fine counsel in *The Watchtower* of April 15, 1984.

[2] **Organized Social Affairs:** Whether we are "eating or drinking or doing anything else," we should "do all things for God's glory." (1 Cor. 10:31-33) This counsel is not observed by some, and problems continue to develop because of social gatherings too large to be properly supervised. In some instances, hundreds of people are invited to elaborate functions where worldly entertainment is featured. Sometimes those attending are asked to pay admission or other fees. Such gatherings closely resemble worldly affairs, the spirit of which is out of harmony with decency and Bible principles. —Rom. 13:13, 14; Eph. 5:15-20.

[3] It has been reported that large numbers of Witnesses have gathered at rented facilities where the entertainment is unwholesome and worldly and where proper supervision is lacking. Similar activities advertised as a "Jehovah's Witness" weekend have been held at hotels or resorts. Because of the difficulty in properly supervising such large groups, problems have developed. Rowdiness, overindulgence in alcoholic beverages, and even immorality have sometimes resulted. (Eph. 5:3, 4) Social gatherings where such conduct occurs do not honor Jehovah. Rather, they bring reproach upon the good name of the congregation and stumble others.—1 Cor. 10:23, 24, 29.

[4] Christians are encouraged to show hospitality, but the emphasis should be focused on the spiritual interchange. (Rom. 1:11, 12) Small get-togethers are usually best. The *Our Ministry* book says on pages 135-6: "At times, several families may be invited to a home for Christian fellowship. . . . Reasonably, those who are hosts in such cases should feel personally responsible for what takes place. With this in mind, discerning Christians have seen the wisdom of limiting the size of such groups and the duration of the gatherings." Jesus indicated that nothing elaborate is needed when our goal is to encourage our friends spiritually.—Luke 10: 40-42.

[5] It is a fine thing to show hospitality to fellow Christians. However, there is a big difference between a modest gathering in our home and an elaborate affair reflecting a worldly spirit in a rented facility. When you invite others to be your guests, you should be sure that you can assume full responsibility for what takes place.—See *The Watchtower* of August 15, 1992, pages 17-20.

[6] Truly, Jehovah has blessed us with a brotherhood from which we derive refreshing encouragement that motivates us to continue in fine works. (Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12) By displaying modesty and reasonableness in social activities, we will always bring glory to our God and be upbuilding to others.—Rom. 15:2.

Make the Best Use of Our Magazines

¹ When you approach a newsstand, what do you see? *Magazines.* At a corner store, what catches your eye? *Magazines.* What makes the mailman bend under the weight of his mailbag? *Magazines.* Thus, what are many people reading? *Magazines.* Surveys have shown that 9 out of 10 youths between the ages of 10 and 18, and the same percentage of adults, read at least one magazine every month. The world is magazine conscious.

² Can we make honesthearted persons *Watchtower* and *Awake!* conscious? Yes, if WE are *Watchtower* and *Awake!* conscious. What can help us? Consider these suggestions:

■ *Read the Magazines:* One traveling overseer reported that, on the average, only 1 publisher in 3 in his circuit reads each issue of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* from cover to cover. Do you? As you read each article, ask yourself, 'Who would appreciate this information—a mother, an agnostic, a businessman, a youth?' In your personal copy, mark a point or two that you can use when presenting the magazine. Then think of how you might arouse interest in the subject in just one or two sentences.

■ *Have a Definite Magazine Order:* Place a realistic order with the brother handling magazines for a definite number of copies of each issue. In this way, you and your family will have a regular and adequate supply of magazines.

■ *Schedule a Regular Magazine Day:* Many congregations have set aside a designated day primarily for magazine witnessing. Can you support the congregation's Magazine Day? If not, try to use some service time periodically for magazine street witnessing and personal distribution of the magazines, both from door to door and on magazine routes.

■ *Be "Watchtower" and "Awake!" Conscious:* Carry copies of the magazines with you when traveling or shopping. Offer them when you talk to coworkers, neighbors, schoolmates, or teachers. One couple who often travel by plane use a point in one of the current magazines to strike up a conversation with the passenger seated next to them. They have enjoyed many delightful experiences. Some young people regularly bring to school articles that they feel will interest their teachers or fellow students. Carry copies with you when you run errands, and offer them to the merchants after you have finished your business. Many of us buy gasoline regularly; why not offer the magazines to the gas station attendant? Keep them handy when relatives visit, when you use public transportation, or when you are waiting for an appointment. Can you think of other appropriate occasions?

■ *Prepare a Brief Magazine Presentation:* Plan to say only a little, but say it well. Be enthusiastic. Appeal to the heart. Be specific. Pick out one idea from an article, put it into a few words, and offer the magazines. The best presentation raises a question on a subject of interest and then points to an article that gives the Scriptural answer. Consider a few examples of how this might be done:

³ ***If you are highlighting an article on the rising crime rate, you could ask:***

■ "What will it take to make it possible for us to be able to sleep at night without fear of crime?" The householder may be pessimistic about things getting better. You can reply that many people feel the same way and add that you have some information you believe will be of interest to him. Then refer to an appropriate point in the article.

⁴ ***When offering an article on family life, you might say:***

■ "Many people find that it is a real challenge to earn a living and raise a family these days. A number of books have been written on the subject, but even the experts don't agree on the solutions to our problems. Is there anywhere we can go to obtain reliable guidance?" Then point to a specific comment in the magazine that demonstrates the wisdom found in the Bible.

⁵ ***You might take this approach when featuring an article on a social problem:***

■ "Most people are under pressure today. God never intended for us to live this way." Then show how the Bible-based material in the article can help us cope with life's problems now and provide hope for a permanent solution in the future.

⁶ What about donations? To make appreciative ones aware of how they can assist, you could say: "Although our literature is offered without charge, we do accept modest donations for our worldwide work."

⁷ **Street Witnessing Is Effective:** It was in the January 1940 issue of *Informant* (*Our Kingdom Ministry*) that publishers were encouraged for the first time to schedule a special day each week for street witnessing using the magazines. Do you engage in street witnessing from time to time? If you do, is the method you use truly effective? Some publishers have been observed standing on a busy street corner, talking to one another while scores of people passed by unnoticed. Rather than stand side by side with the magazines, it is more effective to separate and approach people. Strangers

may stop and listen briefly if they are approached by only one person, but few will take the initiative to approach a group engrossed in conversation. Since we attract a lot of attention on the street, there is a special need to be well-groomed and modestly dressed as befits God's ministers. —1 Tim. 2:9, 10.

8 **Magazine Routes:** Those who have a magazine route place many magazines even though the territories are being covered regularly. Magazine routes are an excellent source of potential home Bible studies.

9 When you make regular return visits to deliver the magazines, you will find that the warmth and friendliness between you and the householder will grow. The better you become acquainted, the easier it will be to converse about Scriptural topics. This can lead to starting a productive home Bible study. At calls where there is obvious appreciation for the magazines, offer a subscription. And remember, each time you contact the householder you can report a return visit.

10 One sister regularly took magazines to a woman who always accepted them but said: "I don't believe what you're telling me." On a later visit, the sister found the husband at home. After a friendly talk, arrangements were made to start a Bible study. The sister made friends with the three sons who came to join in the study. Eventually, the mother and her sons dedicated their lives to Jehovah and were baptized. To date, 35 members of the family have accepted the truth. All of this because the sister followed up on her magazine route!

11 There are many ways to start a magazine route. You can start a route by simply keeping a record of your placements and arranging to return every two weeks with the latest issues. One way is to use information under the heading "In Our Next Issue." When you return, tell the householder that you have the article you mentioned previously. Or, when making the return visit, you could say: "When I read this article, I thought it might interest you . . ." Then make a few brief comments on the article and offer it. When you have completed the call, note five simple points on your house-to-house record: (1) householder's name, (2) householder's address, (3) date of visit, (4) issues placed, and (5) article featured. Some publishers have been very successful in developing magazine routes, accumulating as many as 40 or more calls on their list!

12 **Business Territory:** Many magazines are placed by publishers who work business territory. Have you tried the store-to-store work? Reports indicate that in some congregations, participation in this feature of service is quite limited. At first, some are apprehensive about calling on businesspeople, but after they try it a few times, they find it both interesting and rewarding. Why not ask an experienced publisher or pioneer to help you get started?

13 There are several advantages to working from store to store. There are very few not-at-homes, at least during business hours! Businesspeople are usually courteous, even if they may not be particularly interested in the Bible. Get an early start; you will likely be better received. After introducing yourself, you might say that you rarely find businesspeople at home, so you are visiting them for just a few moments at their workplace to offer the latest issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Point out that many businesspeople appreciate our magazines because they need to keep up-to-date on world events but have little time to read. The magazines present thought-provoking information from a fresh perspective, without religious, political, or commercial bias. A magazine route may be developed with interested persons found in business territory.

14 **Prepare as a Family:** Some time may be set aside during your family study to discuss which articles in the latest magazines might be appropriate for use in your territory. Family members —including the children—can take turns practicing their presentations and overcoming common objections that are raised, such as: "I'm busy," "We have our own religion," or "I'm not interested." Good cooperation can make it possible for the whole family to have a regular share in magazine distribution.

15 **Book Study Conductors Can Help:** Whenever practical, schedule the meetings for service on Magazine Day at the book study locations instead of having the entire congregation meet at the Kingdom Hall. Those in charge of meetings for field service should be well prepared with specific suggestions for the group. These may include a sample presentation and a point or two from the current issues that might be used to arouse interest locally. Meetings for field service—including the organizing of the group—should be brief, lasting no more than from 10 to 15 minutes. Study conductors should make sure that there is sufficient territory so that the group will be kept busy for the entire field service period.

16 **Show Appreciation for the Magazines:** The article "Making Good Use of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*" that was published in the July 1993 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* made this important point: "*The Watchtower* and *Awake!* do not lose their value, even if they have not all been placed within a month or two of their issue date. The information they contain does not become less important with the passage of time . . . Allowing older magazines to accumulate and never using them shows a lack of appreciation for these valuable instruments. . . . Instead of setting aside older issues

and forgetting about them, would it not be better to make a special effort to place them in the hands of interested people?"

[17] Today there are many honesthearted people who are searching for the truth. The information contained in one magazine could be just what they need to lead them to the truth! Jehovah has given us a thrilling message to proclaim, and our magazines play a vital role in getting the message to others. Will you be more conscious of magazine distribution in the future? Will you apply some of these suggestions this very weekend? You will be richly blessed if you do.

Practical Suggestions:

- Read the magazines in advance, and get acquainted with the articles.
- Select an article that deals with something of general interest in your community.
- Prepare a presentation that will be appropriate for a variety of people, whether men, women, or youths. Show how the magazine relates to the householder and how the whole family will enjoy it.
- Plan to engage in your field service activity when most people are at home. Some congregations arrange for evening witnessing with the magazines.
- Keep your presentation short and to the point.
- Don't talk too fast. If your listener has no interest, talking faster will not help. Try to be relaxed, and give the householder opportunity to respond.

Offering Magazines From House to House:

- Have a friendly smile and a kindly tone of voice.
- Be enthusiastic about the magazines.
- Speak slowly and distinctly.
- Speak on only one subject; briefly stimulate interest, and show its value to householder.
- Highlight just one article.
- Feature only one magazine, offering the other as a companion.
- Hand the magazines to the householder.
- Let the householder know you plan to return.
- Have a friendly, positive conclusion if the magazines are refused.
- Make notation on house-to-house record of all interest and placements.

Opportunities to Place Magazines:

- House-to-house witnessing
- Street witnessing
- Store-to-store work
- Magazine route
- Evening witnessing
- When making return visits
- Calling on former Bible students
- When traveling, shopping
- When talking to relatives, coworkers, neighbors, schoolmates, teachers
- On public transportation, in waiting rooms

Maintaining a Balanced View of Computer Technology

[1] The apostle Paul urged Christians in the first century not to be distracted, because "the time left is reduced." (1 Cor. 7:29) As the end of this old system of things nears, how urgent it is for us to 'seek *first* the Kingdom and God's righteousness' and to 'buy out the opportune time'! Time is precious.—Matt. 6:33; Eph. 5:15, 16.

[2] Technology has been hailed as a great saver of time. For example, at the click of a computer button, a user can instantly access huge amounts of information. Computers can often do in seconds what would have taken hours or weeks to do by other means. When properly used, they are a helpful tool.

[3] **Will It *Really* Save Time?:** On the other hand, such technology does not come to the user without substantial costs—both in money and in time. Hours may be required to learn how to make the computer do some tasks. Moreover, a person who becomes intrigued with the technology itself may consume time that could be better spent. We must keep a balanced view, having in mind the principle involved in the apostle Paul's admonition to walk "as wise persons, buying out the opportune time for yourselves."—See 1 Corinthians 7:31.

[4] A number of well-intentioned individuals have designed computer programs for keeping congregation records. It is, of course, a personal decision as to how an individual uses his computer. However, congregation records for which forms have been provided should not be kept on computers, since children or other unauthorized persons could access them. All congregation records—accounts records, Congregation's Publisher Record cards, and so forth—should be kept on the forms provided by the Society, and the information on these congregation forms should not be stored in a computer. In this way, the confidential records of the congregation will be protected.

[5] Responsible overseers should be discerning in making assignments for the Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting program. They need to have in mind the material to be covered in a particular part. In the school, for example, some material may not be appropriate for just any student to handle. The purpose of the presentation as well as the qualifications of the individual and the nature of the material should be considered. It should not be left to the computer to decide.

[6] A brother who is assigned a part to be presented at congregation meetings should not rely on material prepared by someone else, particularly an unknown

individual, just because it has been made available on a computer network and using it will save him work. Responsible Christians do not presume to prepare Bible talks or meeting parts and make them available on computer networks for others to use. However, the computer and the Society's *Watchtower Library* on CD-ROM may be valuable tools in the hands of the individual brother, contributing to effective research in the limited time available.

[7] As for reproducing and distributing computer programs, lists, and related documentation among the brothers, and preparing and distributing parts on the Service Meeting and Theocratic Ministry School by electronic or other means, it is usually better for brothers to prepare their own material, with local benefits in mind. (1 Tim. 4:13, 15) On no account should congregational connections ever be exploited for making financial gain.

[8] What about the distribution of computer printouts of scriptures used in the *Watchtower* Study or in the Congregation Book Study? Well, it may be preferable for publishers to make their individual notes and markings right in the Bible and the publications being studied. At the meeting, use of computer printouts of Scripture texts that are cited in the publications could discourage use of the Bible itself in finding scriptures. Yet looking up Scripture texts during a Bible study or at a congregation meeting is part of the training received, equipping us for effective use of the Bible in the field ministry. In most instances, and especially with longer quotations, reading directly from the Bible is more effective, particularly when the audience is encouraged to follow along in the Bible.

[9] **Other Serious Pitfalls:** As outlined on page 17 of the August 1, 1993, issue of *The Watchtower,* connecting a computer to an electronic bulletin board can open the way to serious spiritual dangers. Just as an unscrupulous individual can place on a bulletin board a virus—a program designed to corrupt and destroy computer files—apostates, clergymen, and persons seeking to corrupt others morally or otherwise can freely place their poisonous ideas on bulletin boards. Unless a bulletin board, even one labeled "JW Only," is properly supervised, with its use being limited to those who are mature, faithful servants of Jehovah, it could expose Christian users to "bad associations." (1 Cor. 15:33) The Society has received reports that such so-called private networks have been used not only to speculate regarding spiritual matters but also to give bad advice, spread gossip and false information, plant negative ideas, raise questions and doubts that subvert the faith of some, and disseminate private interpretations of Scripture. On the surface, some information may appear to be interesting and informative, and yet it may be laced with poisonous elements. Christians look to "the faithful and discreet slave" for timely spiritual food and for clarifications. (See *The Watchtower* of July 1, 1994, pages 9-11.) A Christian has the serious responsibility to safeguard his faith against all corrupting influences and, basic to that, should always know with whom he is associating.—Matt. 24:45-47; 2 John 10, 11.

[10] The same *Watchtower* article emphasized the importance of respecting copyright laws. Most companies that prepare and sell computer programs copyright these, and they provide a license outlining how the programs can legally be used. The license usually says that the owner cannot give to others copies of the program; in fact, international copyright law makes it illegal to do so. Many greedy people have no scruples about breaking the law. Christians, though, should be conscientious in legal matters, rendering to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.—Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1.

[11] Some large firms sell computers containing preinstalled and licensed programs. However, certain computer stores do not provide licenses because the programs they preinstall are illegal copies, meaning that the purchaser violates the law in using the programs. Related to this, Christians should avoid putting onto, or downloading from, electronic bulletin boards material that is copyrighted (as are the Society's publications) and that is being copied without legal permission from the owners.—Heb. 13:18.

[12] The value of any application of technology must be weighed against the potential dangers inherent in its use. Just as television can be used to good advantage, the unwholesome effect it is having on mankind today has caused even worldly sources to express serious concern. Computer networks extend worldwide and can bring unlimited valuable information into the home or workplace. They offer much-needed services to businesses and organizations as well as to individuals who need to keep pace with personal or business interests in the fast-moving society in which we live. At the same time, computer networks are plagued with problems such as pornography, divisive hate propaganda, and detailed information on how to perform vile and wicked deeds.

[13] There are many important reasons, therefore, why a Christian must maintain a balanced view of computer technology. Many individuals are enjoying the *New World Translation, Insight* volumes, and *GetVerse* program, which the Society has made available on computer diskettes. Others have been benefited by using the Society issued *Watchtower Library* on CD-ROM, which incorporates additional research capabilities. While recognizing the value of certain technology, a person who uses such modern technology for beneficial purposes should also be on guard to protect himself and others from any negative aspects. We need to exercise balance so that even the harmless use of technology does not consume an inordinate amount of our dedicated time or distract us from our primary work and goals.—Matt. 6:22; 28: 19, 20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature to be used during **September:** The *Live Forever* book will be used, and efforts should be made to start home Bible studies. **October:** *Awake!* and *The Watchtower*. Make special effort to place copies of the magazines. Subscriptions may be offered on return visits when genuine interest is manifested. **November:** Offer the *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make an announcement to the congregation when this has been done.

■ Publishers planning to serve as auxiliary pioneers in October should turn in their application early. This will allow the elders to make necessary arrangements for literature and territory.

■ The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower,* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated persons who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

■ A new *Watchtower Publications List* has been prepared, and four copies are being sent to each congregation. They should be distributed to the secretary and to the brothers caring for literature, magazines, and accounts.

■ The Society receives many inquiries from publishers and others interested in financially advancing theocratic activities. In response to these inquiries, a magazine-size brochure entitled *Planned Giving to Benefit Kingdom Service Worldwide* has been prepared. The brochure contains information on gifts, wills, and trusts, as well as information regarding estate, financial, and tax planning. It is designed to help those desiring to benefit Kingdom service worldwide to select the best way to do so, given their family and personal circumstances. By reading the brochure and conferring with those working with the Society's Planned Giving Desk, many have been able to assist the Society and at the same time maximize the tax benefits of doing so. The elders have a brochure available for inspection, or a personal copy may be obtained by writing or calling the Watch Tower Society, Planned Giving Desk, 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204, telephone (914) 878-7000.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
September 4:	**p. 183, ¶ 21**	**p. 186, ¶ 30**
September 11:	**p. 186, ¶ 1**	**p. 189, ¶ 12**
September 18:	**p. 190, ¶ 13**	**p. 192, ¶ 24**
September 25:	**p. 193, ¶ 25**	**p. 198, ¶ 38**

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**179**	**119.7**	**73.6**	**55.1**	**5.0**
Pios.	**70,767**	**71.7**	**32.3**	**23.2**	**2.4**
Aux. Pios.	**26,062**	**57.9**	**25.4**	**13.8**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**794,887**	**9.8**	**5.3**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**891,895**		Baptized: **6,077**		

What Goals Have You Set for Your Children?

[1] Success in life depends on setting and achieving worthwhile goals. Those who pursue trivial or unrealistic goals end up disappointed and unfulfilled. It takes wisdom to discern which objectives to pursue in order to "get a firm hold on the real life." (1 Tim. 6:19) How thankful we are that Jehovah, through his Word and organization, shows us exactly which way to go!—Isa. 30:21.

[2] In providing such loving guidance, Jehovah sets a fine example for parents. Instead of leaving it up to their inexperienced children to choose which way is best, wise parents train them in the way that they should go, and when they grow old, they "will not turn aside from it." (Prov. 22:6) Christian parents know from experience that they cannot trust their own judgment; they must rely on Jehovah. (Prov. 3:5, 6) This need is even greater for children, who are limited in knowledge and experience.

[3] Parents can set before their children worthwhile goals that will help them focus on "the more important things." (Phil. 1:10) They can start with the family study, encouraging the children to appreciate its importance and to learn from it. It is good for children to acquire the habit of studying in advance for congregation meetings and preparing to offer comments in their own words. A regular share in the preaching work is important. Young children can contribute by offering tracts, reading scriptures, or presenting magazines. When they are able to read, enrollment in the Theocratic Ministry School can accelerate their spiritual progress. Qualifying as an unbaptized publisher or being accepted for baptism is a major step forward.

[4] As their children approach the teenage years, or even earlier, parents should realistically talk to them about career goals. School counselors and classmates can easily influence them in favor of worldly, materialistic pursuits. Parents should assist their children to choose school courses that provide practical training, equipping them to care for their material needs without sacrificing Kingdom interests. (1 Tim. 6:6-10) They can be encouraged to pursue the "gift" of singleness, and then later, if they decide to marry, they will be in a position to assume the heavy responsibilities of marriage. (Matt. 19:10, 11; 1 Cor. 7:36-38) By speaking in a positive way about pioneering, serving where the need is greater, Bethel service, or missionary activity, parents can instill in children even at an early age a desire to use their lives in a way that pleases Jehovah, benefits others, and brings blessings to themselves.

[5] It is not by accident that we have so many young people in the organization today who hold to high Christian values and pursue theocratic goals. Much of their success can be attributed to loving parents. If you are a parent, where do your children seem to be headed? Are they moving ahead progressively toward a life focused on Kingdom interests? Remember, one of the most important things you can do is to inculcate the truth in your children, and speak of it every day. You may be blessed with a household that is faithful in serving Jehovah.—Deut. 6:6, 7; Josh. 24:15.

Help Others to Benefit Themselves

[1] Jehovah promises to teach us what we need to know. He assures us at Psalm 32:8: "I shall make you have insight and instruct you in the way you should go. I will give advice with my eye upon you." This assurance is of great benefit to us. Unselfishly, we want to show others how they can benefit themselves by heeding the wise counsel from the Bible. (Isa. 48:17) During September we can do this by offering the *Live Forever* book. In making our presentations, there are various ways we can show the practical value of the Bible.

[2] ***In view of the prevalence of marriage problems today, you might choose to feature this thought from the "Live Forever" book:***

■ "Most of the people I have spoken to are very concerned about the tremendous increase in marital unhappiness and divorce. How do you feel about this problem? [Allow for response.] Many have failed to realize the underlying causes. If they make a sincere effort, not only can couples save their marriage but they can find genuine happiness as well. The key to success lies in applying counsel found in the Bible." Read Ephesians 5:28, 29, 33. Turn to page 243, discuss paragraphs 16 and 17, and then offer the book.

[3] ***Children need quality time and training from their parents. In featuring the "Live Forever" book, you could say:***

■ "All of us are concerned about the future well-being of our young people. In your opinion, what is the best way that parents can help their children find a secure future? [Allow for response.] Listen to this advice from a Bible proverb written about 3,000 years ago. [Read Proverbs 22:6.] While our children can benefit a great deal from instruction they receive in school, their most valuable training is provided at home by their parents. It requires time, attention, and love, but it is well worth the effort." Turn to page 245, discuss paragraphs 20 and 21, and then explain how the book can be used as a basis for family study of the Bible.

[4] ***You may wish to offer the "Live Forever" book by showing how the earth will become a paradise:***

■ "I'm sure you are concerned about what your life will be like in the future. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray for God's will to be done on the earth as it is in heaven. What will the earth be like when that takes place? [Allow for response.] Here is an artist's portrayal of a paradise world. [Point out the illustration on pages 12 and 13. Then read Isaiah 11:6-9, included in paragraph 12.] Wouldn't it be wonderful to live in such a world? This book will show you how you and your family can live in a paradise like this."

[5] Preparing your presentation in advance is a key factor in determining your success at the door. Before you knock, make sure you have something specific to say about a Scriptural thought. Also, have in mind a brief comment about an interesting feature of the magazine or tract you plan to offer if the book is not accepted. Take advantage of every opportunity you have to sow the seeds of Kingdom truth during September. (Eccl. 11:6) You will be helping others to reap benefits that will last forever.

Follow Up All Interest to Benefit Others

[1] What is the key factor that helps us determine whether or not we should leave our literature with someone? Interest! The same is true when it comes to making return visits. Whenever someone shows even a little interest in the Kingdom message, we want to do whatever we can to benefit that person. So we make return visits with the objective of cultivating the person's interest and starting a home Bible study. This is our goal even when we do not leave literature. How can this be done?

[2] ***If your previous conversation was about the prevalence of marriage problems today and you left the "Live Forever" book, you could open your conversation this way:***

■ "On my previous visit, we talked about marriage and practical Bible counsel that can help us find greater happiness. Isn't it true that even in the best of families, problems arise from time to time? [Allow for response.] The Bible gives us excellent counsel that can help us resolve problems in family relationships. A family can be blessed by studying the Bible together." Turn to page 246, and discuss paragraph 23. Read John 17:3, and offer your assistance in helping the family to begin studying the Bible in the home.

[3] ***If you spoke about children and their need for training, you might continue the discussion in this manner:***

■ "Previously we spoke about the spiritual training that children need and how parents can help them. Most parents I have spoken to are alarmed about the bad conduct of so many young people today. What do you think about . . . ? [Mention an example of youthful misconduct often observed in your community. Allow for response.] Let me show you some of the practical advice given in the Bible." Turn to paragraph 22 on page 246 in the *Live Forever* book, discuss the main point, and read Ephesians 6:4. Point out that most children actually want discipline and guidance. When parents are diligent in providing it, the children are happier and more respectful in their conduct. Explain how we study the Bible with our children.

[4] ***If the subject of your conversation was the Paradise earth, then you might say this to rekindle the interest:***

■ "We looked at some illustrations in this book that showed us what the earth will be like when God makes it into a paradise. It would mean little to us if we could not enjoy it with our loved ones. Wouldn't you agree?" Allow for response. Then turn to page 162 in the *Live Forever* book. Read Revelation 21:3, 4, and explain how our loved ones can always be with us. If there is good response, read John 5:28, 29 to show that the dead will return to life. Point to the cover of the book and say: "It's really true—we can live forever in Paradise on earth!" Arrange for another visit to discuss why we know it is near.

[5] The main purpose of a return visit is to help interested persons benefit from the Kingdom message. Most people need a stimulus to whet their appetite for spiritual things. Direct their attention to specific points of practical value in the literature, stressing how it can help them to understand the Bible better. Return visits that accomplish these goals will help others to benefit themselves in the best way possible.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 10

Always Praise Jehovah

Left a Model

[1] There are few activities so important that they *always* deserve our attention. Among them we include eating, breathing, and sleeping. These are essential if we are to sustain ourselves physically. The apostle Paul put preaching the good news in a similar category when he urged: "Let us *always* offer to God a sacrifice of praise." (Heb. 13:15) So, praising Jehovah also deserves our constant attention. It is something we should try to do each day, always praising our heavenly Father.

ex?

[2] When others tried to divert his attention elsewhere, Jesus responded: "I must declare the good news of the kingdom of God." (Luke 4:43) During his three-and-a-half-year ministry, everything he did each day was directly connected in some way with glorifying God. We know that Paul felt this way, in view of the thought he expressed at 1 Corinthians 9:16 ("Woe is me if I did not declare the good news!") Other faithful Christians were encouraged to be ready always to make a defense of their hope to others. (1 Pet. 3:15) Today hundreds of thousands of zealous pioneers and millions of congregation publishers endeavor to imitate such fine examples.

Today?

Can we really follow J.C. ex

[3] When we reflect on the wholehearted zeal manifested by Jesus Christ, our Model, we are prompted to follow his steps closely. (1 Pet. 2:21) Sometimes we may get discouraged when we have to face the problems of everyday living. How can we daily take advantage of opportunities to praise Jehovah when we have a full-time secular job? Nor can we forsake family obligations that require much of our time. Most young people are occupied with necessary daily schooling. Some might feel that it is not possible to praise Jehovah publicly *every* day. At times, some may go for an *entire month* without sharing the good news in some way.

Beloved

How ex?

[4] Jeremiah was one who could not hold back. When he failed briefly to speak in Jehovah's name, he felt an unbearable fire burning within him. (Jer. 20:9) In the face of what seemed to be overpowering adversity, Jeremiah *always* found some way to speak Jehovah's message to others. Can we imitate his example of courage and persist in searching out opportunities to praise our Creator each day?

How imitate

[5] Our speaking about Jehovah should not be confined to formal, prearranged times for witnessing with other publishers in the congregation's territory. All we need is a listening ear. We encounter people continuously every day—they come to our home, we work with them on the job, we stand in line with them at the supermarket, or we ride with them on the bus. All it takes is a friendly greeting and a thought-provoking question or remark that will start a conversation. Many have found this to be their most productive form of witnessing. When we have many opportunities to speak to others about the good news, it would be unthinkable for us to go for a whole month without giving a Kingdom witness.

[6] The privilege of praising Jehovah will never cease. As the psalmist indicated, every breathing thing should be praising Jehovah, and surely we want to be included. (Ps. 150:6) If our heart moves us to do so always, we will take advantage daily of opportunities to speak about Jehovah and his Word.

L. Father

Are We Staying Awake —Avoiding Distractions?

[1] Jesus gave a warning: "Keep awake, . . . that you may succeed in escaping" calamities that were sure to come. (Luke 21:36) We are living in the most perilous time in human history. Disaster awaits those who give in to spiritual drowsiness. This poses a danger for each one of us. Jesus mentioned eating, drinking, and the anxieties of everyday living. Why? Because even these things could preoccupy us, become distractions, and induce dangerous spiritual drowsiness.

[2] **Common Distractions:** Some have become preoccupied with excessive or questionable recreation, even becoming TV addicts. Of course, seeking first the Kingdom does not mean that we must avoid all forms of recreation. When we use reasonableness and moderation, recreation can be beneficial. (Compare 1 Timothy 4:8.) But it is a distraction when it becomes a big thing in our lives, cutting deeply into our time, our resources, or our share in the Kingdom-preaching work.

[3] Another common distraction that causes spiritual drowsiness is the desire for unnecessary material things. This requires that a person spend more time at secular work and causes spiritual pursuits to be crowded out. Some have lost sight of spiritual goals by becoming engrossed in acquiring material possessions in order to achieve a more comfortable way of life. While we need "sustenance and covering," we must guard against developing a love of money, which can lead us astray from the faith. (1 Tim. 6:8-10) By failing to keep our eyes focused on Kingdom interests, we could become lax in caring for the spiritual needs of our family and fail to accomplish our ministry.—1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Tim. 4:5.

[4] Still others allow their 'hearts to become weighed down with the anxieties of life' to the point that they fall asleep spiritually. (Luke 21:34) At times, anxiety is experienced because of health problems or distressing family situations. But such personal concerns must not be permitted to diminish our awareness of the fast-approaching end of this system of things.—Mark 13:33.

[5] Nothing would please the Devil more than to succeed in putting us in a dreamlike state, chasing after some worldly fantasy. We have to battle to keep awake spiritually. We know that 'Jehovah's day is coming as a thief,' and it is vital that we "stay awake and keep our senses." (1 Thess. 5:2, 6) If we detect signs of drowsiness in ourselves, it is urgent that we "put off the works belonging to darkness."—Rom. 13:11-13.

[6] **Aids to Help Us Stay Awake:** What are such aids? Prayer is essential. We should pray incessantly. (1 Thess. 5:17) Closeness to the Christian congregation will 'incite us to love and fine works.' (Heb. 10:24) A regular, honest examination of ourselves can help to keep us alert to our need to overcome weaknesses. (2 Cor. 13:5) Good personal study habits will keep us "nourished with the words of the faith." (1 Tim. 4:6) If we are diligent, we can be confident that we will be able to avoid distractions, 'stay awake, and stand firm in the faith.'—1 Cor. 16:13.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER

Week Starting October 2

Song 149

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Call special attention to announcement regarding November 8 *Awake!* if appropriate for your territory.

15 min: "Always Praise Jehovah." Questions and answers. Emphasize application of cited and quoted Scripture texts.

20 min: "Offer Magazines on Every Occasion." Discuss main points, and then review articles that might be used in offering latest issues. Have two or three presentations demonstrated. Be sure to include suggestions on letting people know how they can make a donation to worldwide work.

Song 153 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 9

Song 131

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Local needs. Or a talk by an elder, "Disfellowshipping—A Loving Provision?" based on the July 15, 1995, *Watchtower,* pages 25-7.

20 min: "Are We Staying Awake—Avoiding Distractions?" Questions and answers. As time permits, make additional comments based on May 1, 1992, *Watchtower,* pages 20-2.

Song 128 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 16

Song 120

10 min: Local announcements. Call attention to the booklet *Good News for All Nations,* which provides a door-to-door presentation in 59 different languages. Encourage use of this booklet when persons who speak a foreign language are encountered in the territory.

15 min: *"Jehovah's Witnesses and Education."* Elder, using notes taken on convention talk, discusses with audience features of new brochure. Have well-prepared demonstration showing how a parent would speak with a teacher or school official and present the brochure. Encourage those who have children in school to distribute the brochure as directed in convention talk if they have not done so already.

20 min: "Return Visits With a Purpose." Discuss our goals in making return visits. Arrange to have capable publishers demonstrate two different presentations. Have publisher explain how this work is financed.

Song 130 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 23

Song 100

10 min: Local announcements. Theocratic News.

15 min: "We Need the Congregation." Questions and answers.

20 min: Direct Interest to the Organization. Service overseer conducts a discussion with two or three publishers, using the brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's Will Worldwide.* Explain why it is beneficial to make interested ones aware of how the organization functions, how various activities are arranged, and how they can become involved. Review points from pages 14 and 15 on "Meetings for Inciting to Love and Fine Works." Group briefly demonstrates how this material might be included in a discussion on a return visit or Bible study to help an interested person appreciate the need to attend.

Song 126 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 30

Song 159

10 min: Local announcements. With worldly holidays coming up in November and December, encourage all to consider enrollment as auxiliary pioneers.

15 min: Have You Tried Referrals? A talk. Some publishers have been able to start new Bible studies in this way: After studying with an interested person for a while, they ask the person if he knows of anyone else among his friends, relatives, or acquaintances who might be interested in a Bible study. Often several names are given. Ask if you can use his name when calling on these individuals. When making the call, you might say: "So-and-so has enjoyed studying the Bible so much that he thought you too would like to benefit from our free Bible study program." This can provide a nice list of return visits that may develop into productive Bible studies. Include one or two experiences from publishers who have found interested persons or started new studies in this manner.

20 min: Offering the *New World Translation* With the Book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* During November. Review features of the *New World Translation* in the *Reasoning* book, pages 276-80. Read "Definition," explaining why it was produced. Answer these questions: On what was this translation based? Who were the translators? Is it really a scholarly translation? Why is the name Jehovah used in the Christian Greek Scriptures? Then explain why we can be grateful to have this translation. (See *"All Scripture"* book, page 331, paragraphs 22 and 23.) Have a capable publisher demonstrate a brief presentation using the introductory comments to chapter 14 in the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* page 184. Remind all to pick up copies for use in service this week.

Song 138 and concluding prayer.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

Cuba: Recently the Cuban government permitted a representative of the Society to visit Cuba as zone overseer. A meeting was held with the circuit and district overseers. The brothers are now able to assemble in groups of up to 150. They appreciate that they now enjoy increased freedom and that the Bethel Home can again be used as a center for Jehovah's Witnesses in Cuba.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
October 2:	**p. 198, ¶ 1**	**p. 201, ¶ 11**
October 9:	**p. 201, ¶ 12**	**p. 208, ¶ 7**
October 16:	**p. 208, ¶ 8**	**p. 211, ¶ 20**
October 23:	**p. 211, ¶ 21**	**p. 215, ¶ 3**
October 30:	**p. 216, ¶ 4**	**p. 218, ¶ 16**

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**153**	**120.0**	**74.9**	**53.3**	**5.0**
Pios.	**69,966**	**67.2**	**30.1**	**21.7**	**2.3**
Aux. Pios.	**26,348**	**58.6**	**24.4**	**13.0**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**818,917**	**9.8**	**5.6**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**915,384**		Baptized: **10,889**		

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 1996

INSTRUCTIONS

During 1996 the following will be the arrangements when conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

TEXTBOOKS: The *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [*bi12*], *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* [*jv*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [*si*], *Reasoning From the Scriptures* [*rs*], *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* [*kl*], and *Insight on the Scriptures* Vol. 1 [*it*-1] will be the basis for assignments.

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and remarks of welcome and then proceed as follows:

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 15 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant, and it will be based on *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* When based on the *Proclaimers* book, this assignment should be delivered as a 15-minute instruction talk with no oral review; when based on the *"All Scripture"* book, it should be delivered as a 10- to 12-minute instruction talk with a 3- to 5-minute oral review following, using the printed questions in the publication. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used. Illustrations, photographs, and charts found in the *Proclaimers* book may be commented on by the speaker and used as teaching aids.

The brothers assigned this talk should be careful to *keep within the time limit.* Private counsel may be given if necessary or if requested by the speaker.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 6 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant who will effectively apply the material to local needs. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. A 30- to 60-second overall review of the assigned chapters may be included. The principal objective, however, is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value to us. The students will then be dismissed to their various classrooms by the school overseer.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 5 minutes. This is a Bible reading of the assigned material to be given by a brother. This will apply in the main school as well as in the auxiliary groups. The reading assignments are usually short enough to permit the student to present brief explanatory information in the opening and concluding remarks. Historical background, prophetic or doctrinal significance, and application of principles may be included. *All* the assigned verses should be read without a break. Of course, where the verses to be read are not consecutive, the student may cite the verse where the reading continues.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. The subject for this presentation will be based on *Reasoning From the Scriptures* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* The student assigned should be able to read. While presenting this information, the student may be either seated or standing. When the assignment is based on the *Reasoning* book, the sister presenting this part will need to adapt the theme and the material to be considered to a practical setting, preferably one that involves field service or informal witnessing. When the assignment is based on the *Knowledge* book, the setting may be a return visit or a home Bible study. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student helps the householder to reason on and understand the material and in how the scriptures are applied. Paragraphs in the book need not be read. One assistant will be scheduled by the school overseer, but an additional assistant may be used. Not the setting but the effective use of the material should be given prime consideration.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a brother or a sister. It will be based on a Bible character. For each assignment the name of a Bible character and a theme are set forth in the schedule. Information about the Bible character can be found in *Insight on the Scriptures,* Volume 1, under his name. The student should study Scriptural references in the material in order to get a clear picture of the Bible character—the events of his life, as well as his personality, traits, and attitude. Thereafter, the student should develop the assigned theme of the talk and select appropriate scriptures to be used. Additional scriptures that highlight Bible principles that tie in with the theme may be included. The purpose of the talk is to show what can be learned from the example of the Bible character under consideration, whether good or bad. Acts of faithfulness, courage, humility, and unselfishness furnish good examples to be followed; unfaithful acts, as well as undesirable traits, stand as a strong warning to turn Christians away from an improper course. When assigned to a brother, this talk should be given with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When a sister is given this part, it should be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3.

COUNSEL AND REMARKS: After each student presentation, the school overseer will give specific counsel, not necessarily following the program of progressive counsel outlined on the Speech Counsel slip. Rather, he should concentrate on those areas where the student needs to improve. If the student merits solely a "G" and there is no other speech quality marked "I" or "W," then the counselor should circle the box, where the "G," "I," or "W" would normally appear, of the speech quality that the student should work on next. He will advise the student of this that evening as well as show this speech quality on the student's next Theocratic Ministry School Assignment slip (S-89). Those on the program should sit toward the front of the hall. This will save time and enable the school overseer to give his counsel directly to each student. As time allows after the giving of necessary oral counsel, comments may be given by the counselor on informative and practical points not covered by the students. The school overseer should use *no more than a total of two minutes* for counsel and any other brief remarks after each student presentation. If the Bible highlights assignment left something to be desired, private counsel may be given.

PREPARING ASSIGNMENTS: Before preparing an assigned part, the student should read carefully the *School Guidebook* material dealing with the speech quality to be worked on. Students given Assignment No. 2 may choose a theme appropriate to the portion of the Bible that is to be read. Other assignments are to be developed in line with the theme shown on the printed schedule.

TIMING: No one should go overtime, nor should the counsel and remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 2 through 4 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. The one designated to give the stop signal should do so promptly. When brothers handling Assignment No. 1 and Bible highlights go overtime, they should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully. Total program: 45 minutes, excluding song and prayer.

WRITTEN REVIEW: Periodically a written review will be given. In preparation, review the assigned material and complete the scheduled Bible reading. Only the Bible may be used during this 25-minute review. The balance of the time will be devoted to a discussion of the questions and answers. Each student will check his own paper. The school overseer will consider with the audience the answers to the review questions and concentrate on the more difficult ones, helping all to understand the answers clearly. If local circumstances make it necessary, the written review may be given a week later than what is shown on the schedule.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 1 Bible reading: Jeremiah 13 to 15
Song No. 191
No. 1: Conduct That Sets Us Apart From the World (*jv* p. 178 par. 4–p. 183 par. 1)
No. 2: Jeremiah 14:10-22
No. 3: Jesus Did Not Go to Heaven in a Physical Body (*rs* p. 333 par. 3–p. 334 par. 3)
No. 4: Aaron—Theme: Continue Faithful Despite Human Weaknesses

Jan. 8 Bible reading: Jeremiah 16 to 19
Song No. 157
No. 1: Respect for Life and the Moral Cleanness of the Organization (*jv* p. 183 par. 2–p. 187)
No. 2: Jeremiah 18:1-17
No. 3: Why Jesus Appeared in Materialized Bodies (*rs* p. 334 par. 4–p. 335 par. 2)
No. 4: Abednego—Theme: Youths—Honor Jehovah by Your Loyalty

Jan. 15 Bible reading: Jeremiah 20 to 22
Song No. 24
No. 1: True Christians Are No Part of the World (*jv* p. 188–p. 192 par. 2)
No. 2: Jeremiah 20:1-13
No. 3: Those Resurrected to Rule With Christ Will Be Like Him (*rs* p. 335 par. 4–p. 336 par. 2)
No. 4: Abel—Theme: Exercise Faith That Pleases God

Jan. 22 Bible reading: Jeremiah 23 to 25
Song No. 38
No. 1: Loyalty to God and Christian Neutrality (*jv* p. 192 par. 3–p. 195 par. 4)
No. 2: Jeremiah 23:16-32
No. 3: What the Resurrection Will Mean for Mankind in General (*rs* p. 336 par. 3–p. 337 par. 3)
No. 4: Abiathar—Theme: Disloyalty Can Nullify Years of Faithful Service

Jan. 29 Bible reading: Jeremiah 26 to 28
Song No. 163
No. 1: Worldly Customs That Challenge a Christian's Faithfulness (*jv* p. 196 par. 1–p. 201)
No. 2: Jeremiah 26:1-16
No. 3: Why Resurrected Ones Will Not Be Condemned for Their Past Deeds (*rs* p. 338 par. 1)
No. 4: Abigail—Theme: Display Qualities That Honor Jehovah

Feb. 5 Bible reading: Jeremiah 29 to 31
Song No. 185
No. 1: Early Developments of the Modern-Day Organization (*jv* p. 204–p. 209 par. 1)
No. 2: Jeremiah 31:27-40
No. 3: How the "Rest of the Dead" Come to Life on Earth (*rs* p. 338 par. 2–p. 339 par. 2)
No. 4: Abihu—Theme: Prominence Does Not Excuse Disobedience

Feb. 12 Bible reading: Jeremiah 32 and 33
Song No. 6
No. 1: Organizing to Get the Good News Preached (*jv* p. 209 par. 2–p. 217 par. 1)
No. 2: Jeremiah 33:1-3, 14-26
No. 3: Those Who Are Included in the Earthly Resurrection (*rs* p. 339 par. 3–p. 340 par. 3)
No. 4: Abishai—Theme: Be Loyal to Those Taking the Lead

Feb. 19 Bible reading: Jeremiah 34 to 37
Song No. 98
No. 1: Theocratic Organization and Its Benefits (*jv* p. 217 par. 2–p. 221 par. 4)
No. 2: Jeremiah 35:1-11, 17-19
No. 3: The Events Associated With Christ's Presence Take Place Over a Period of Years (*rs* p. 341 pars. 1, 2)
No. 4: Abner—Theme: Men Who Live by the Sword Die by the Sword

Feb. 26 Bible reading: Jeremiah 38 to 41
Song No. 91
No. 1: Traveling Overseers Strengthen the Congregations (*jv* p. 222 par. 1–p. 227 par. 4)
No. 2: Jeremiah 38:1-13
No. 3: Christ's Return Is Invisible (*rs* p. 341 par. 3–p. 342 par. 2)
No. 4: Abraham—Theme: Live for the Doing of God's Will

Mar. 4 Bible reading: Jeremiah 42 to 45
Song No. 184
No. 1: Theocratic Alignment and Training for Overseers (*jv* p. 227 par. 5–p. 232 par. 3)
No. 2: Jeremiah 43:1-13
No. 3: The Manner of Jesus' Coming and How Every Eye Will See Him (*rs* p. 342 par. 4–p. 343 par. 5)
No. 4: Absalom—Theme: Selfish Ambition Leads to Disaster

Mar. 11 Bible reading: Jeremiah 46 to 48
Song No. 53
No. 1: Gearing Up for Explosive Growth (*jv* p. 233 par. 1–p. 235)
No. 2: Jeremiah 48:1-15
No. 3: Events Associated With the Presence of Christ (*rs* p. 344 pars. 1-5)
No. 4: Achan—Theme: Robbing God Brings Dire Consequences

Mar. 18 Bible reading: Jeremiah 49 and 50
Song No. 65
No. 1: Meetings That Fill Spiritual Needs (*jv* p. 236–p. 241 par. 1)
No. 2: Jeremiah 49:1-11, 15-18
No. 3: Christians Are Not Required to Keep the Sabbath (*rs* p. 345 par. 2–p. 346 par. 3)
No. 4: Adam—Theme: Why We Must Keep God First in Our Life

Mar. 25 Bible reading: Jeremiah 51 and 52
Song No. 70
No. 1: Jeremiah—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 129 pars. 36-39)
No. 2: Jeremiah 51:41-57
No. 3: No Bible Record of Adam's Keeping a Sabbath Day (*rs* p. 346 par. 4–p. 347 par. 2)
No. 4: King Ahab—Theme: There Can Be No Peace for the Wicked

Apr. 1 Bible reading: Lamentations 1 and 2
Song No. 140
No. 1: Introduction to Lamentations (*si* pp. 130-1 pars. 1-7)
No. 2: Lamentations 2:13-22
No. 3: Jesus Did Not Divide the Mosaic Law Into "Ceremonial" and "Moral" Parts (*rs* p. 347 par. 3–p. 348 par. 1)
No. 4: King Ahaz—Theme: Idolatry Brings God's Disfavor

Apr. 8 Bible reading: Lamentations 3 to 5
Song No. 194
No. 1: Lamentations—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 132 pars. 13-15)
No. 2: Lamentations 5:1-22
No. 3: The Ten Commandments Passed Away With the Mosaic Law (*rs* p. 348 pars. 2-3)
No. 4: Ahithophel—Theme: Jehovah Thwarts the Schemes of Traitors

Apr. 15 Bible reading: Ezekiel 1 to 4
Song No. 124
No. 1: Introduction to Ezekiel (*si* pp. 132-3 pars. 1-6)
No. 2: Ezekiel 3:16-27
No. 3: Why Moral Restraint Was Not Removed When the Ten Commandments Passed Away (*rs* p. 349 pars. 1, 2)
No. 4: Amnon—Theme: Selfish Erotic Love Is Ruinous

Apr. 22 Bible reading: Ezekiel 5 to 8
Song No. 30
No. 1: Commemoration of the Lord's Death (*jv* p. 242 par. 1–p. 243 par. 3)
No. 2: Ezekiel 5:1-15
No. 3: What the Sabbath Means to Christians (*rs* p. 349 par. 3–p. 351 par. 2)
No. 4: Aquila—Theme: Preach With Zeal and Be Hospitable

Apr. 29 Written Review. Complete Jeremiah 13 to Ezekiel 8
Song No. 155

May 6 Bible reading: Ezekiel 9 to 11
Song No. 183
No. 1: Young Ones Given Attention and All Encouraged to Preach (*jv* p. 244 par. 1–p. 248 par. 3)
No. 2: Ezekiel 9:1-11
No. 3: God Wants You to Have a Happy Future (*kl* pp. 6-7 pars. 1-5)
No. 4: King Asa—Theme: Be Zealous for Pure Worship

May 13 Bible reading: Ezekiel 12 to 14
Song No. 109
No. 1: Meetings Arranged for All to See and Hear (*jv* p. 248 par. 4–p. 253)
No. 2: Ezekiel 14:1-14
No. 3: Everlasting Life in Paradise—Not a Dream (*kl* pp. 7-9 pars. 6-10)
No. 4: Queen Athaliah—Theme: Beware of the Jezebel Influence

May 20 Bible reading: Ezekiel 15 and 16
Song No. 4
No. 1: Conventions Give Evidence of Our Brotherhood (*jv* p. 254–p. 260 par. 2)
No. 2: Ezekiel 16:46-63
No. 3: What Life Will Be Like in Paradise (*kl* pp. 9-10 pars. 11-16)
No. 4: Balaam—Theme: Greed Can Blind Us to a Wrong Course

May 27 Bible reading: Ezekiel 17 to 19
Song No. 225
No. 1: Milestones in Spiritual Growth (*jv* p. 260 par. 3–p. 264 par. 5)
No. 2: Ezekiel 18:21-32
No. 3: Why the Knowledge of God Is Vital (*kl* pp. 10-11 pars. 17-19)
No. 4: Barnabas—Theme: Be Warmhearted and Generous in Your Ministry

June 3 Bible reading: Ezekiel 20 and 21
Song No. 180
No. 1: Conventions Energize the Evangelizing Work (*jv* p. 265 par. 1–p. 268 par. 3)
No. 2: Ezekiel 21:18-32
No. 3: The Book That Reveals the Knowledge of God (*kl* pp. 12-13 pars. 1-6)
No. 4: Baruch (Jeremiah's secretary)—Theme: Serve Jehovah Unselfishly

June 10 Bible reading: Ezekiel 22 and 23
Song No. 97
No. 1: Memorable Gatherings of Jehovah's People (*jv* p. 269 par. 1–p. 275 par. 2)
No. 2: Ezekiel 22:17-31
No. 3: What the Bible Reveals About God (*kl* pp. 14-15 pars. 7-9)
No. 4: Bath-sheba—Theme: Repentant Wrongdoers Can Receive God's Favor

June 17 Bible reading: Ezekiel 24 to 26
Song No. 46
No. 1: Conventions Organized for International Praise to Jehovah (*jv* p. 275 par. 3–p. 282)
No. 2: Ezekiel 26:1-14
No. 3: Why You Can Trust the Bible (*kl* pp. 15-16 pars. 10-13)
No. 4: Belshazzar—Theme: Learn Humility and Avoid Disaster

June 24 Bible reading: Ezekiel 27 to 29
Song No. 172
No. 1: Seek First God's Kingdom (*jv* p. 283-p. 287 par. 1)
No. 2: Ezekiel 29:1-16
No. 3: The Bible Is Accurate and Reliable (*kl* p. 17 pars. 14, 15)
No. 4: Boaz—Theme: Be Morally Clean and Accept Godly Responsibility

July 1 Bible reading: Ezekiel 30 to 32
Song No. 85
No. 1: Trusting in Jehovah With All Their Heart (*jv* p. 287 par. 2–p. 292 par. 4)
No. 2: Ezekiel 31:1-14
No. 3: The Bible Is a Book of Prophecy (*kl* pp. 17-18 pars. 16-18)
No. 4: Cain—Theme: How We React to Counsel Tells Much About Us

July 8 Bible reading: Ezekiel 33 and 34
Song No. 35
No. 1: Motivated by Love to Serve God (*jv* p. 292 par. 5–p. 298 par. 1)
No. 2: Ezekiel 34:17-30
No. 3: Bible Prophecies About Jesus (*kl* pp. 19-21 pars. 19, 20)
No. 4: Caleb (son of Jephunneh)—Theme: Jehovah Makes Powerful Those Who Follow Him Fully

July 15 Bible reading: Ezekiel 35 to 37
Song No. 128
No. 1: Pioneering and Seizing Opportunities to Witness (*jv* p. 299 par. 1–p. 303)
No. 2: Ezekiel 35:1-15
No. 3: Form a Longing for the Knowledge of God (*kl* pp. 21-2 pars. 21-3)
No. 4: Cornelius—Theme: Jehovah God Is Not Partial

July 22 Bible reading: Ezekiel 38 and 39
Song No. 173
No. 1: Growing Together in Love (*jv* p. 304–p. 307 par. 1) OD
No. 2: Ezekiel 38:1-4, 10-12, 18-23 # 2
No. 3: The True God and His Name (*kl* pp. 23-4 pars. 1-5) m
No. 4: Cyrus—Theme: God's Word Always Comes True

July 29 Bible reading: Ezekiel 40 to 44
Song No. 115
No. 1: Brotherly Love for Victims of War (*jv* p. 307 par. 2–p. 310 par. 2)
No. 2: Ezekiel 40:1-15
No. 3: Why You Should Use God's Name (*kl* pp. 24-5 pars. 6-8)
No. 4: Daniel (God's prophet)—Theme: Jehovah Blesses Whole-Souled Devotion

Aug. 5 Bible reading: Ezekiel 45 to 48
Song No. 112
No. 1: Ezekiel—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 137 pars. 29-33)
No. 2: Ezekiel 47:1-12
No. 3: How Jehovah Made His Name Great (*kl* pp. 25-7 pars. 9-13)
No. 4: David—Theme: Youths, Prepare Now to Serve Jehovah Courageously

Aug. 12 Bible reading: Daniel 1 and 2
Song No. 82
No. 1: Introduction to Daniel (*si* pp. 138-9 pars. 1-6)
No. 2: Daniel 2:31-45
No. 3: Qualities of the True God (*kl* pp. 27-8 pars. 14-16)
No. 4: Deborah (the prophetess)—Theme: Faithful Women Praise Jehovah

Aug. 19 Bible reading: Daniel 3 and 4
Song No. 135
No. 1: Christian Love When Natural Disasters Strike (*jv* p. 310 par. 3–p. 315 par. 2)
No. 2: Daniel 3:16-30
No. 3: Jehovah God Is Merciful and Gracious (*kl* pp. 28-9 pars. 17-19)
No. 4: Dinah—Theme: Bad Associations Can Lead to Tragedy

Aug. 26 Written Review. Complete Ezekiel 9 to Daniel 4
Song No. 201

Sept. 2 Bible reading: Daniel 5 and 6
Song No. 29
No. 1: A United Brotherhood in the Face of Persecution (*jv* p. 315 par. 3–p. 317)
No. 2: Daniel 6:4-11, 16, 19-23
No. 3: Jehovah Is Slow to Anger, Impartial, and Righteous (*kl* p. 30 pars. 20, 21)
No. 4: Doeg—Theme: Beware of Those Who Love What Is Bad

Sept. 9 Bible reading: Daniel 7 and 8
Song No. 148
No. 1: Building Together on a Global Scale (*jv* p. 318 par. 1–p. 325 par. 5)
No. 2: Daniel 7:2-14
No. 3: Jehovah God Is One (*kl* pp. 30-1 pars. 22, 23)
No. 4: Dorcas—Theme: Genuine Christians Abound in Good Works

Sept. 16 Bible reading: Daniel 9 and 10
Song No. 105
No. 1: Refinement and Enlargement of the Building Work (*jv* p. 325 par. 6–p. 333 par. 3)
No. 2: Daniel 9:20-27
No. 3: Jesus Christ Is the Key to the Knowledge of God (*kl* pp. 32-3 pars. 1-3)
No. 4: Ebed-melech—Theme: Be Fearless, and Honor Jehovah's Servants

Sept. 23 Bible reading: Daniel 11 and 12
Song No. 168
No. 1: Daniel—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 141-2 pars. 19-23)
No. 2: Daniel 12:1-13
No. 3: The Promised Messiah (*kl* p. 33 pars. 4, 5)
No. 4: Ehud (son of Gera)—Theme: Jehovah Delivers His People

Sept. 30 Bible reading: Hosea 1 to 5
Song No. 205
No. 1: Introduction to Hosea (*si* pp. 143-4 pars. 1-8)
No. 2: Hosea 5:1-15
No. 3: Jesus' Lineage Identifies Him as the Messiah (*kl* p. 34 par. 6)
No. 4: Eleazar (son of Aaron)—Theme: Steadfastly Serve Jehovah

Oct. 7 Bible reading: Hosea 6 to 10
Song No. 166
No. 1: Rapid Expansion Around the Globe (*jv* p. 333 par. 4–p. 339)
No. 2: Hosea 8:1-14
No. 3: Fulfilled Prophecy Identifies Jesus as the Messiah (*kl* pp. 34-6 pars. 7, 8)
No. 4: Eli (the high priest)—Theme: Permissiveness Dishonors God

Oct. 14 Bible reading: Hosea 11 to 14
Song No. 92
No. 1: Hosea—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 145 pars. 14-17)
No. 2: Hosea 11:1-12
No. 3: Further Proof That Jesus Was the Messiah (*kl* p. 36 par. 9)
No. 4: Elihu (son of Barachel)—Theme: True Friends Speak the Truth

Oct. 21 Bible reading: Joel 1 to 3
Song No. 161
No. 1: Introduction to Joel and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 146-8 pars. 1-5, 12-14)
No. 2: Joel 2:1-11, 28-32
No. 3: Jehovah Bears Witness About His Son (*kl* p. 38 pars. 10, 11)
No. 4: Elijah (the prophet)—Theme: Never Underestimate the Power of Prayer

Oct. 28 Bible reading: Amos 1 to 5
Song No. 199
No. 1: Introduction to Amos (*si* pp. 148-9 pars. 1-6)
No. 2: Amos 3:1-15
No. 3: Jesus' Prehuman Existence (*kl* p. 39 pars. 12-14)
No. 4: Eliphaz (the Temanite)—Theme: Jehovah Hates a False Tongue

Nov. 4 Bible reading: Amos 6 to 9
Song No. 18
No. 1: Amos—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 150 pars. 13-17)
No. 2: Amos 8:1-14
No. 3: Jesus' Life Course on Earth (*kl* pp. 40-1 pars. 15-17)
No. 4: Elisha—Theme: Have Deep Respect for Jehovah's Servants

Nov. 11 Bible reading: Obadiah to Jonah 4
Song No. 26
No. 1: Introduction to Obadiah and to Jonah and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 151-3 pars. 1-5, 10-14; pp. 153-5 pars. 1-4, 9-12)
No. 2: Jonah 3:10; 4:1-11
No. 3: Jesus Is Alive and Ruling as King (*kl* pp.41-2 pars. 18-20)
No. 4: Elizabeth—Theme: Be God-Fearing and Blameless

Nov. 18 Bible reading: Micah 1 to 4
Song No. 138
No. 1: Introduction to Micah (*si* pp. 155-6 pars. 1-8)
No. 2: Micah 4:1-12
No. 3: Worship That God Accepts (*kl* pp. 43-5 pars. 1-5)
No. 4: Enoch (son of Jared)—Theme: Walk With Jehovah

Nov. 25 Bible reading: Micah 5 to 7
Song No. 89
No. 1: Micah—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 157-8 pars. 16-19)
No. 2: Micah 6:1-16
No. 3: Doing the Will of God (*kl* pp. 46-7 pars. 6-10)
No. 4: Epaphras—Theme: Pray and Slave for Your Brothers

Dec. 2 Bible reading: Nahum 1 to 3
Song No. 136
No. 1: Introduction to Nahum and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 158-60 pars. 1-7, 11, 12)
No. 2: Nahum 1:2-14
No. 3: Worship God His Way (*kl* p. 48 pars. 11-13)
No. 4: Epaphroditus—Theme: Have Respect for Trustworthy Men

Dec. 9 Bible reading: Habakkuk 1 to 3
Song No. 144
No. 1: Introduction to Habakkuk and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 161-3 pars. 1-5, 12-14)
No. 2: Habakkuk 1:12–2:8
No. 3: Guard Against Offending God (*kl* pp. 49-50 pars. 14-17)
No. 4: Esau—Theme: Our Decisions Reveal Whether We Appreciate Sacred Things

Dec. 16 Bible reading: Zephaniah 1 to 3
Song No. 146
No. 1: Introduction to Zephaniah and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 163-6 pars. 1-6, 10-12)
No. 2: Zephaniah 1:7-18
No. 3: Keep God's High Standards (*kl* pp. 50-1 pars. 18, 19)
No. 4: Esther—Theme: How True Beauty Is Made Manifest

Dec. 23 Bible reading: Haggai 1 and 2
Song No. 164
No. 1: Introduction to Haggai and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 166-8 pars. 1-7, 13-16)
No. 2: Haggai 2:6-19
No. 3: Give Jehovah Whole-Souled Worship (*kl* pp. 51-2 pars. 20-2)
No. 4: Eunice—Theme: An Example for Christian Mothers

Dec. 30 Written Review. Complete Daniel 5 to Haggai 2
Song No. 177

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature to be used during **October:** *Awake!* and *The Watchtower.* Make special effort to place copies of the magazines. Subscriptions may be offered on return visits when genuine interest is manifested. **November:** Offer the *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **December:** The new book, entitled *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* will be offered, and a special effort will be made to follow up all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies. **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1982 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14). The pre-1982 publications that may be used during January are not available in Brooklyn.

■ The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1996" and should be kept for reference throughout 1996.

■ Congregations should begin requesting *Examining the Scriptures Daily—1996* with their October literature request. The booklets will be available in Arabic, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. Until these booklets are available and shipments are made, they will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Examining the Scriptures* booklets are special-request items.

■ The November 8 issue of *Awake!* will include articles on Mormonism. This coverage is not an attack on the Mormon faith but rather a clear exposition of some Mormon beliefs in comparison with the Bible. These articles have been carefully researched and checked from Mormon sources. We believe this examination of Mormon history and doctrine will help sincere persons to see where the light of truth really lies. You may wish to order extra copies for your future contacts in the ministry. Congregations should notify the Society at once of any increased orders for this issue.

■ New Publications Available:

Does God Really Care About Us? —Persian
How to Start and Continue Bible Studies —Punjabi
Jehovah's Witnesses and Education —English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese
Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century —Lithuanian, Macedonian
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Chinese, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

Doing What Is Right in Jehovah's Eyes —German
Sing Praises to Jehovah (set of eight audiocassettes in an album) —Polish

■ New Braille Publications Available:

Examining the Scriptures Daily—1996 (four volumes) —Grade-two English
Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1996 (one volume) —Grade-two English

Please mark requests for Braille publications ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK. Include name and address of the person who will use the Braille material.

■ New Videocassettes Available:

The New World Society in Action (A review of the historic 1954 film of the same title) —English

We Need the Congregation

[1] The sons of Korah once expressed their appreciation for Jehovah's congregation in this way: "A day in your courtyards is better than a thousand elsewhere." (Ps. 84:10) To them, the world had nothing to offer in comparison. If you share those feelings, you should make the congregation the focal point of your life.

[2] From its inception, the Christian congregation has manifested that it has Jehovah's blessing. (Acts 16:4, 5) None of us should take the congregation for granted or feel that it is simply a means to bring us together physically. The congregation is the rallying point for Jehovah's Witnesses in every community. It provides for united association so that we can be taught by Jehovah and organized for Kingdom activity.—Isa. 2:2.

[3] The Christian congregation is a basic channel for teaching us the truth. (1 Tim. 3:15) Jesus' followers must "all be one"—at unity with God, with Christ, and with one another. (John 17:20, 21; compare Isaiah 54:13.) No matter where we may go in the world, our brothers believe the Bible's teachings and principles, and they conduct themselves in harmony with them.

[4] We are trained and equipped to fulfill our assignment to make disciples. Each month, *The Watchtower, Awake!,* and *Our Kingdom Ministry* offer helpful information to assist us in starting Scriptural discussions. The meetings are designed to show us how to find and develop interest. The increase we see worldwide proves that we have heavenly backing in this work.—Matt. 28:18-20.

[5] Through the congregation, we receive daily encouragement 'inciting us to love and fine works.' (Heb. 10: 24, 25) We are strengthened to endure trials faithfully. Loving overseers help us to cope with pressures and anxieties. (Eccl. 4:9-12) We are given needed counsel when we are in danger of going astray. What other organization provides such loving care?—1 Thess. 5:14.

[6] It is Jehovah's will that we stay close to his organization to preserve our unity. (John 10:16) One way the congregation helps us maintain contact with the faithful slave class is by sending out traveling overseers for our encouragement. Our responding to loving direction draws us together in a closeness that helps to keep us spiritually strong.

[7] The congregation is vital to our spiritual survival. It would be impossible to serve Jehovah acceptably apart from it. Let us, then, stay close to what Jehovah has provided. May we work in harmony with its goals and sincerely apply the counsel we receive there. It is only in this way that we can show how much the congregation means to us.—Ps. 27:4.

Offer Magazines on Every Occasion

[1] We have good reason to appreciate *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* What other magazines have such international appeal? This month the magazines will be featured in our preaching activity, and what powerful information the October issues contain! Usually, we place most of our magazines in the house-to-house work; however, we will want to be prepared also to offer them on every other appropriate occasion.

[2] ***When offering the October 1 "Watchtower," you might stimulate interest in the article "A World Without War—When?" by saying:***

■ "Many people wonder why a world without war seems to be unattainable in spite of all the efforts of men. What do you think about these statements on page 5 of the October 1 *Watchtower?* [Read the first sentence in each of the first two paragraphs under the subheading "Religion—A Great Hindrance," and allow for response.] Of course, this doesn't mean that there will always be wars. Notice God's promise here at Isaiah 9:6, 7." You may read this text from your Bible or as it is quoted in the *Watchtower* article. Explain briefly that *The Watchtower* advocates Jehovah's Kingdom as the only hope for a peaceful world, and encourage the person to read the article.

[3] ***When presenting the October 22 "Awake!" you might say:***

■ "What do you think about the question on the cover of this magazine: 'Why Is Life So Short?' [Allow for response.] This series of articles calls attention to what modern scientists and others have to say about aging, and then it focuses on what our Creator has promised regarding prospects for everlasting life. I would be pleased to leave you this copy if you care to read it."

[4] ***When you find people who are religiously inclined, why not feature an article from the October 15 "Watchtower"? This presentation may strike a responsive chord:***

■ "I'd like to get your opinion on this question: Is it possible to love God and fear him at the same time?" Allow for reply, and then read the caption text of the article "Why Fear the True God Now?" (Eccl. 12:13) Use one of the illustrations on page 199 of the *Reasoning* book, and offer the magazine if interest is shown.

[5] ***When working from house to house, do not pass up small stores and shops. Those who regularly call on stores describe this activity as enjoyable and productive. You could try a simple presentation like this when offering the October 8 "Awake!":***

■ "We know that businesspeople appreciate being kept up-to-date on issues that affect their community. I'm sure these articles will be of interest to you." Then briefly share a point from the article "One-Parent Families —How Successful Can They Be?"

[6] ***If the person you approach is genuinely busy, you could display the magazines and say:***

■ "I know you weren't expecting a visitor today, so I'll be brief. I'd like to give you an opportunity to read something that is important." Point out an article you have selected, and offer the magazines.

[7] Keep a careful house-to-house record, and call back on all placements. If sincere interest is found on the return call, offer a subscription to one or both of the magazines. Let us be prepared and alert to offer our magazines on every appropriate occasion.

Return Visits With a Purpose

[1] When making a return visit, you should endeavor to use a scripture that will add to the person's knowledge of the Bible subject you discussed previously.

[2] ***One of the goals in making return visits on magazine placements is to establish a magazine route. A simple presentation like this might be effective:***

■ "I hope you enjoyed the *Watchtower* article I left with you that explained why we should be in fear of God. Today I brought an article in the *Awake!* magazine that asks, 'Why Is Life So Short?' That's a good question, isn't it?" You could continue by saying: "Jesus' well-known words at John 3:16 give promise of everlasting life. Please accept this magazine and be encouraged by the solid hope offered in God's Word." Then explain that you will be back to bring the next issues and perhaps discuss further what God has promised for obedient mankind. Remember that each time you deliver the magazines, you can report a return visit.

[3] ***If you placed the article "A World Without War—When?" you might say:***

■ "What would life on this earth be like if there were no more wars? [Allow for response.] Let me show you what God has promised to do." Read Psalm 37:10, 11, and describe how things will be when God's will is done here on earth. Remind the person of what Jesus taught his disciples to pray for as recorded at Matthew 6:9, 10. Help him to reason on the meaning of Jesus' words. If there is genuine interest, you may offer a subscription to *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* and make arrangements to come back for further discussion.

[4] ***If you returned for further discussion on the cover series "Why Is Life So Short?" you might begin this way:***

■ "The last time I called, we talked about human longevity. As you no doubt noted in the *Awake!* articles, scientists hold out little hope of helping us to live beyond 70 or 80 years. But what do you think about what the Bible promises? [Allow for answer.] The Bible shows that God has something much better in mind for man." Then read John 17:3, and explain how taking in knowledge can lead to everlasting life. At this point you may be able to offer a home Bible study or arrange for another Bible discussion.

[5] ***Starting a Bible study is an important goal in our ministry. Perhaps you have made several visits on a person who has accepted the magazines. Why not try this approach the next time you call?:***

■ "People have so many different ideas about religion and its value in modern living. There are conflicting beliefs about why God has permitted wickedness or why we grow old and die. Some people would like to know how to pray and be heard by God." Open one of our Bible study publications to a subject you feel will interest the householder, and briefly demonstrate how a study is conducted.

[6] Jehovah is a God of purpose. Let us imitate him during October by making return visits with a purpose.

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Our Kingdom Ministry (USPS 295-360) is published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., and International Bible Students Association, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Printed in U.S.A.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 11

All Thrilled With Release of New Book at District Convention

New Book Highlights the Knowledge of God

[1] At our district convention this past summer, how delighted we were with the entire program! On Saturday afternoon our joy overflowed when we heard the announcement concerning the new book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*, and the related information that followed. Earth's billions of people need knowledge that only God can give—knowledge of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ.—Prov. 2:1-6; John 17:3.

[2] How vividly the speaker described portions of the book! The captivating chapter headings, practical illustrations, positive presentation of the truth, uncomplicated questions, and, at the end of each chapter, a box entitled "Test Your Knowledge" are among the features that will appeal to all who read it. But our Bible students will especially benefit as they rapidly acquire the fundamentals of the Bible's teachings.

[3] During the concluding talks on Saturday and Sunday, we were encouraged to have a family study using this new book. By now, we have likely become acquainted with its contents. No doubt you have also discussed points to have in mind when offering this new book in the field.

[4] **Points to Review:** You may recall that when presenting the subject "Why Mankind Needs the Knowledge of God," the speaker emphasized a number of points, including the following: (1) When you use this book to conduct studies, it is not wise to bring in outside material, which could becloud the main points; just concentrate on conveying what the book is proving in each chapter. (2) Chapters are of moderate length so that you will usually be able to cover one each time you study. (3) At the end of each chapter, the questions in the box entitled "Test Your Knowledge" will provide a succinct review.

[5] **Use on Bible Studies:** Quite a few publishers have inquired whether it is advisable to change their Bible studies over to this new book. If you are well along in the book being studied at present, it would be practical to complete the study of that publication. Otherwise, it is recommended that you switch over to the *Knowledge* book. If you used a brochure or a tract to start a Bible study, introduce the new book at the appropriate time and use it for the study. More information on the use of the *Knowledge* book will appear in *Our Kingdom Ministry* in the coming months.

[6] Jehovah has provided this new book to help us teach others about the knowledge that leads to everlasting life. Now we need to prepare well and have a full share in the work yet to be done.

Regular Meeting Attendance —Essential to Our Standing Firm

[1] The apostle Paul urged us to remain "healthy in the faith." (Titus 1: 9, 13) At congregation meetings we consider wholesome thoughts and are instructed in how to keep ourselves fully clad in spiritual armor so that we can "stand firm against the machinations of the Devil."—Eph. 6:11; Phil. 4:8.

[2] **Meetings Provide What We Need:** Attending congregation meetings regularly is essential to our standing firm. (1 Cor. 16:13) At meetings prayers are offered to thank and to praise God, as well as to petition him in behalf of the congregation and its needs. (Phil. 4: 6, 7) Joining in Kingdom songs uplifts us and enables us to express our sentiments and feelings as we worship Jehovah. (Eph. 5:19, 20) Our fellowship together at the Kingdom Hall before and after meetings encourages us, builds us up, and refreshes us. —1 Thess. 5:11.

[3] Last April the special talk, "False Religion's End Is Near," forcefully impressed upon the minds of truth lovers the urgency of taking immediate action to get out of Babylon the Great. (Rev. 18:4) During June and July, how stimulating it was to cover three *Watchtower* study articles on the flashes of light that have enlightened the path of the righteous! (Prov. 4:18) Think of what we would have missed had we neglected to attend those meetings.

[4] At our "Joyful Praisers" District Convention, stress was laid on the need for education that enhances our ministry. As *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry* points out on page 72, the Theocratic Ministry School is a provision for the ongoing education of the entire congregation. Currently, one feature of the program helps us to become better acquainted with the modern-day history of the organization by using the *Proclaimers* book. We cannot afford to miss out on this education.

[5] Our Service Meeting equips us to be more effective in the ministry. This was illustrated by the meeting in which we received instructions for sharing in the wide distribution of Kingdom News No. 34. Jehovah's blessings on this work were abundant, as seen in the exceptional results worldwide. (Compare 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7.) Those regularly attending the meetings were encouraged, and they helped generate the support that was given the campaign.

[6] At the Congregation Book Study, our sense of urgency is heightened by the things we are learning from God's Word with the aid of the *Revelation Climax* book. With events moving swiftly on the world scene, we need to understand the fulfillment of the deeper prophecies of Revelation.

[7] **Give Priority to Regular Meeting Attendance:** In many lands where our brothers are suffering trials, they still recognize how vital it is for them to come together each week. For example, in Burundi, Rwanda, Liberia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, so many new ones are at the meetings that two or even three times the number of publishers attend. In this way Jehovah helps the brothers to remain firm in one spirit.—Phil. 1:27; Heb. 10:23-25.

[8] Any who may have been neglecting regular meeting attendance should take steps now to rectify this trend. (Eccl. 4:9-12) In order to stand firm, we need the mutual interchange with mature ones, as provided by regular meeting attendance.—Rom. 1:11.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Week Starting November 6

Song 6

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "New Book Highlights the Knowledge of God." Question-and-answer discussion. Encourage all to become completely familiar with contents of book so that they can make efficient use of it in the field.

20 min: "All Scripture Is Beneficial for Teaching." Discuss features of the *New World Translation,* showing why it is superior to others. Explain advantages because it is rendered in modern language. (See *"All Scripture"* book, page 328, paragraphs 4-6.) Have two presentations demonstrated.

Song 2 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 13

Song 33

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Review arrangements for expanded field service activity during the worldly holiday period next week.

15 min: "Regular Meeting Attendance—Essential to Our Standing Firm." Talk and discussion with audience.

20 min: "Behave in a Manner Worthy of the Good News." Questions and answers. Make additional comments based on June 15, 1989, *Watchtower,* pages 16-17, paragraphs 5-9.

Song 23 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 20

Song 64

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs. (Or give a talk "Do You Enjoy Personal Study?" based on June 15, 1994, *Watchtower,* pages 8-11.)

20 min: "Help Others to Appreciate the Bible's Value." Elder discusses with two or three publishers why we should make return visits with the goal of starting Bible studies. Review and then demonstrate suggested presentations for return visits, as in a practice session.

Song 8 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 27

Song 96

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Keep Your Mind Fixed on the Things Above." Questions and answers.

20 min: Offering the New Book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* During December. Review appealing features of the book—striking chapter titles and interesting pictures as well as simplicity in explanations, compact size, and skillful use of questions. Isolate a few talking points that might appeal to people in local territory. The *Knowledge* book is uniquely designed for conducting progressive Bible studies, and a special effort should be made to follow up all placements, with a view to starting Bible studies. Have a capable publisher demonstrate one or two brief presentations. Encourage all to make good use of this new book in the field, starting in December.

Song 78 and concluding prayer.

Behave in a Manner Worthy of the Good News

1 As Jehovah's Witnesses, we desire to bring honor to Jehovah's name. We know that our conduct, speech, grooming, and clothing can influence how others view true worship. This is especially true when we are at our meetings. We want to make sure that everything that is said and done at the meetings is worthy of the good news and brings honor to Jehovah.—Phil. 2:4.

2 Many of the world's standards for dress and grooming are unacceptable for Christians. This is a matter that should be given careful attention by ministers of the good news. The June 1, 1989, *Watchtower,* page 20, stated: "Our clothing need not be expensive, but it should be clean, tasteful, and modest. Our footwear should also be in good repair and of good appearance. Similarly, at *all* meetings, including the Congregation Book Study, our bodies should be clean, and we should be neatly and appropriately dressed."

3 Punctuality is a mark of loving consideration and thoughtfulness. Occasionally, unavoidable circumstances may prevent us from arriving on time for a meeting. But habitually arriving late may display a lack of respect for the sacred purpose of the meetings and a failure to appreciate our responsibility to avoid disturbing others. Latecomers often distract others and prevent them from getting the full benefit from the program. Punctuality shows respect for the feelings and interests of all in attendance.

4 Love for our neighbors should make us careful to avoid causing distractions during the meetings. Whispering, eating, chewing gum, rattling papers, and making unnecessary trips to the rest room may interfere with the concentration of others and detract from the dignity due Jehovah's place of worship. It is inappropriate for any to be conducting congregation business or conversing with others unless there is some emergency that requires the brothers to be away from their seats. Otherwise, all should be seated and listening to the program so as to benefit themselves and their families. Poor manners are out of place in the Kingdom Hall because "love . . . does not behave indecently." —1 Cor. 13:4, 5; Gal. 6:10.

5 The fine behavior of our children at meetings also brings praise and honor to Jehovah's name. Close supervision by parents is vital. Children should be encouraged to listen and participate. Many parents with young children choose to sit in a location where they can easily exit and care for the needs of their youngsters without unduly distracting others.

6 Paul admonished: "Behave in a manner worthy of the good news." (Phil. 1:27) Let us, then, strive to be mannerly and considerate of others when attending meetings. Cooperation by all will ensure that there will be "an interchange of encouragement . . . by each one through the other's faith."—Rom. 1:12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature to be used during **November:** Offer the *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **December:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to follow up all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies. **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1982 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* **February:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* may be offered. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14). The pre-1982 publications that may be used during January are not available in Brooklyn.
- Congregations should begin requesting the *1996 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their November literature request. (See the *Watchtower Publications List,* paragraph 10.) The *Yearbook* will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish. Until the *Yearbook* is available and shipments are made, it will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Yearbooks* are special-request items.
- New Publications Available:

Comfort for the Depressed (Tract No. 20) —Macedonian
Does God Really Care About Us? —Armenian, Czech, Macedonian
Enjoy Family Life (Tract No. 21) —Macedonian
How to Find the Road to Paradise (for Muslims) —Serbian
Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15) —Persian
Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry —Ukrainian
Sing Praises to Jehovah (Small size) —Hungarian
The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever —Tamil
The Government That Will Bring Paradise —Macedonian
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived —Samoan
Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1993 —Danish, German, Greek, Japanese

- New Videocassettes Available:

The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book —Spanish

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
November 6:	**p. 219, ¶ 17**	**p. 223, ¶ 5**
November 13:	**p. 224, ¶ 6**	**p. 228, ¶ 19**
November 20:	**p. 229, ¶ 20**	**p. 233, ¶ 33**
November 27:	**p. 233, ¶ 34**	**p. 237, ¶ 5**

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**133**	**116.8**	**72.1**	**50.9**	**4.7**
Pios.	**72,962**	**59.7**	**26.7**	**19.4**	**2.3**
Aux. Pios.	**21,240**	**58.2**	**26.0**	**13.9**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**862,011**	**9.4**	**5.4**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**956,346**		Baptized: **3,630**		

The report shows a new peak of 956,346 total publishers. This represents an increase of 20,082, or 2.1 percent, over the previous peak, in August 1994. The 43,909 baptized during the service year represented an increase of 4,803, or 12.3 percent, over the number baptized the previous service year.

Keep Your Mind Fixed on the Things Above

[1] Commenting on the generation that surrounds us and its outlook on the future, an article in *The New York Times* of December 31, 1994, stated: "They're fearing the future. They fear it in terms of jobs, in terms of disease, in terms of the economy, in terms of world situations." Everywhere we look, there is a feeling of uncertainty about life. Our ministry as Jehovah's Witnesses brings us into daily contact with people who feel this way. While we face the same problems as they do, our faith and confidence in the sure promises of God's Word enable us to have a much different outlook on life and the future of mankind.—Isa. 65:13, 14, 17.

[2] Our optimism and outlook of sure hope cause many honesthearted people to listen to the message that we bring to them. Many individuals who feel depressed and downtrodden find it comforting to talk with us. Because they like what they hear, some agree to study the Bible with us. At times, however, people may first want to unburden themselves of their personal problems. While some time may be spent listening to someone's personal anxieties, we should not lose sight of our objective, which is to teach people the positive truths of God's Word.

[3] We do want to be sympathetic toward those who are burdened down. Jesus set the example when he said, as recorded at Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are toiling and loaded down." We want to encourage people in the same manner. Notice, however, at the conclusion of verse 28, Jesus said: "I will refresh you." That should be our aim. We do that by sharing the refreshing promises from God's Word. Being a good listener demonstrates our personal interest and concern and is vital to fulfilling our commission to preach the good news of the Kingdom, helping others to realize that the Kingdom is the only sure remedy for all the problems of mankind.—Matt. 24:14.

[4] Our work is not that of professional health-care experts. Rather, it is as the apostle Paul explained, as noted at 1 Timothy 4:6, a ministry that focuses on "fine teaching," the teachings that are found in the Word of God. Those having personal or emotional problems may need to be encouraged to lean on Jehovah. Teach them to keep their "minds fixed on the things above"—things that are related to the Kingdom hope. (Col. 3:2) When people keep their attention focused on the Word of God, they can be built up as a result of the powerful influence it exerts in their lives.—Heb. 4:12.

[5] So our goal is to help people concentrate their thinking on things that are 'righteous, chaste, lovable, and praiseworthy.' (Phil. 4:8) If they focus attention on the Kingdom hope, they will be blessed in the same way as we are. They too will experience the joy that comes with the knowledge that Jehovah will eventually solve all their problems through his Kingdom.—Ps. 145:16.

All Scripture Is Beneficial for Teaching

[1] Opinions about the Bible's value are many and varied. However, we are convinced that within its pages lie the answers to mankind's perplexing problems as well as reliable guidance for our personal course in life. (Prov. 3:5, 6) The wisdom of its counsel is unequaled. The moral standards it advocates are unsurpassed. Its message is powerful, "able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Heb. 4:12) How can we help others to see the need to take this book off the shelf and give it careful scrutiny? You may wish to try some of the following suggestions when offering the *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* during November.

[2] ***Since many people worry about meeting their basic needs, perhaps this approach would get their attention:***

■ "Many people I talk to these days are worried about meeting their financial obligations. Many are caught up in the pursuit of material things, and this results in stress. Where is the best place to turn for advice on such matters? [Allow for response.] I have found that the Bible offers practical advice that can help us avoid unnecessary problems. Let me show you an example." Turn to page 163 in the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* and read 1 Timothy 6:9, 10, quoted in paragraph 3. Make further comments on paragraph 4, and then offer the book.

[3] ***Here is another suggestion you might consider:*** Pit Perwick

■ "Every time we read the paper or listen to the news we hear about another distressing problem that makes us feel anxious. [Mention some disturbing event reported recently in the news.] How can we cope with problems like this? [Allow for response.] Back in 1983 the then president of the United States [Ronald Reagan] said that the Bible has the greatest message ever written and that 'inside its pages lie all the answers to all the problems that man has ever known.' What he said brings to mind what the Bible itself states. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.] Let me show you why we can have confidence in the Bible." Point out some highlights from the tract *Why You Can Trust the Bible.* Offer to return later to discuss how remarkable it is that Bible prophecies are being fulfilled in current world events.

[4] ***If there are many nonreligious people in your territory, you might try this approach:***

■ "Many people in this area view certain holy books as contradictory and as nothing more than myths. They have seen so many bad things done in the name of religion that they do not trust even the Bible. In fact, more and more people are wondering whether the Bible is God's Word or man's. What is your opinion?" Allow for answer. Depending on householder's response, turn to a portion of the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* that deals with the objection or viewpoint of the householder, and discuss one or two points. For example, you may have occasion to use paragraphs 27-9 beginning on page 66, under the subheading "Jesus—A Real Person." Do you know of any

[5] Our Grand Instructor has made sure that a knowledge of his will is accessible to all who want to learn. Helping others to appreciate the Bible's real value is one of the best things we can do to help them; it can save their lives.—Prov. 1:32, 33.

Help Others to Appreciate the Bible's Value

[1] Jesus provided what his disciples needed. Luke 24:45 reports: "He opened up their minds fully to grasp the meaning of the Scriptures." He knew that if they wanted to have his Father's approval, it was essential for them to study and understand God's Word, the Bible. (Ps. 1:1, 2) Our preaching work has the same objective. Our goal is to start Bible studies, where we can 'teach people to observe all the things Jesus commanded.' (Matt. 28:20) With this in mind, the following are some suggestions on what might be helpful when you make return visits.

[2] ***If you initially discussed the book "The Bible—God's Word or Man's?" you might continue your discussion this way:***

■ "I would like to show you something else that illustrates the practical value of Bible counsel. Many people find it difficult to get along well with others. What can we do to develop a better relationship with those around us? [After a response, turn to pages 167-8, paragraph 15, and read Matthew 7:12. Add thoughts expressed in paragraph 16.] This is another example of the wisdom found in Bible counsel. The next time I call, I'd like to show you advice the Bible offers to help married couples to find greater happiness in their relationship." Make arrangements to return to discuss pages 170-2, which show what the Bible recommends for a happy family life.

[3] ***If you spoke to someone who showed interest in the Bible, then perhaps this approach might be effective in getting a study started:***

■ "Virtually all those you talk to will tell you that they would like to have a peaceful and secure world in which to live. If that's what everybody wants, why do we have a world that's filled with so much turmoil and violence? [Allow for response.] The *New World Translation* shows you where in the Bible you can find the answer to that question." Turn to page 1659, and point to "Bible Topics for Discussion" No. 43a, "Who is responsible for world distress." Read 2 Corinthians 4:4. Explain how God will destroy the Devil and will bring a world of lasting peace and happiness. Read Revelation 21:3, 4. You can then say: "The next time I call, I would like to show you some scriptures that explain why you can look forward to a world without distress."

[4] ***If you used the direct approach to start a study and there was a good response, you might say this when you return:***

■ "When we spoke previously, we discussed some reasons why it is beneficial to study the Bible. A sincere effort to do more of this can help us appreciate what God has in store for us. [Read John 17:3.] We have developed a Bible study program that has assisted thousands to learn more about what God has promised and how we can please him." Display the *Knowledge* book, review the chapter titles, and demonstrate how we conduct a Bible study.

[5] If you can help sincere persons to appreciate the excelling value of God's Word, you have helped them in the best way possible. The wisdom they can learn by a study of its pages can be "a tree of life," which will bring them much happiness.—Prov. 3:18.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 1995 For United States of America Vol. 38, No. 12

Praise Jehovah Daily

1 Our God, Jehovah, is a marvelous, loving Creator, the Source of all life and happiness. In view of his greatness, he truly is deserving of praise from all his creation. Individually, we wish to say as did the psalmist: "I will add to all your praise. My own mouth will recount your righteousness, all day long your salvation." (Ps. 71:14, 15) To do this, we must seek ways to praise Jehovah day by day and be motivated to speak well of him, his righteousness, and his provisions for salvation.

2 The early Christians set a fine example in praising Jehovah. In reference to the 3,000 baptized at Pentecost, we read at Acts 2:46, 47: "Day after day they were in constant attendance at the temple with one accord, . . . praising God and finding favor with all the people. . . . [And] Jehovah continued to join to them daily those being saved." They were learning wonderful truths about Jehovah and his Messiah. Their joy was contagious, encouraging still others to listen and learn and to praise Jehovah.

3 **Opportunities Are Available Every Day:** Today many find that they can praise Jehovah daily by informal witnessing. Advance planning helps them to be more productive. A sister who had resolved to share in informal witnessing found that someone had smashed two windows and broken into her car. She called a repair service and then prepared to witness to the serviceman. Her preparation included praying for Jehovah's direction. As it turned out, she witnessed to the serviceman for an hour and placed the *Live Forever* book with him.

4 Another sister regularly met a neighbor while they were walking their dogs. During one encounter, they had a serious conversation about life's problems, and that led to more discussions. In time, a Bible study was started. Interestingly, the neighbor later confessed that she would not have listened to Jehovah's Witnesses if they had called at her door, since she did not believe in God or the Bible.

5 Some find it possible to give a witness when salesmen or others call at their door. A sister in Ireland received a call from a man selling life insurance. She explained that she is looking forward to enjoying everlasting life. This was an entirely new thought to this man, who had been raised as a Roman Catholic. He accepted the *Live Forever* book, attended a meeting the following week, and agreed to have a Bible study. Now this salesman is a baptized brother.

6 All of us should be alert to opportunities to praise Jehovah daily. It is helpful to keep a few magazines or tracts where they can be seen and can be readily offered to visitors. In some areas a little time spent on a park bench might give you several chances to witness to others who stop to relax for a few minutes. Some Witness youths in school keep Bible literature on their desk as a way to initiate a conversation with someone who notices it and asks questions. Have in mind one or two Scripture references that you can use. Ask Jehovah to help you. You will be blessed for doing so.—1 John 5:14.

Prepare for and Enjoy Congregation Meetings

1 As an association of brothers, we wisely congregate regularly for our weekly meetings. (1 Tim. 4:15, 16) How can we enjoy and derive the most benefit from them?

2 Time should be set aside on a regular basis to prepare for the meetings. Some may be able to spend more time in preparation than others. However, no matter how busy we are, it is wise to find some time to prepare for meetings. Preparing together as a family is especially beneficial.—Eph. 5:15, 16.

3 **For the Theocratic Ministry School:** Strive to keep up with the weekly Bible reading schedule. (Josh. 1:8) Review the material that will be covered, and bring the necessary publications so that you can follow along with the speakers. Think about ways you can use this information in your ministry.

4 **For the Service Meeting:** Look over the program outlined in *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Read the articles that will be discussed. If material from a *Watchtower* article or some other publication will be considered, look that up and read it too. If field service presentations will be demonstrated, review these in advance so that you will be ready to use them in your ministry.

5 **For the *Watchtower* Study:** Read over the lesson in advance, noting the answers to the questions. Looking up the cited scriptures will help you to get a better understanding. Meditating on how the lesson fits in with what you already know will broaden your knowledge. Plan to participate during the study by preparing brief comments on at least one or two paragraphs. This is an important way to make "public declaration of our hope."—Heb. 10:23.

6 **For the Congregation Book Study:** First, survey the material; consider the chapter title and subheadings. Then, as you read, take note of the key ideas. Review the supporting Bible verses. Try to answer the questions in your own words. When you have prepared the lesson, review it in your mind. Try to recall the main points and lines of reasoning. —2 Tim. 2:15.

7 **Enjoy the Meetings:** To enjoy the meetings to the full, it is important to be on time in order to share in the opening prayer, asking for Jehovah's spirit. You also benefit from the refreshing Kingdom songs. If you do not have young ones or some other reason for sitting in the back of the hall, likely you will find that if you sit toward the front, there will be fewer distractions and you will get more out of the program. Parents with little ones who may have to be taken out during the meeting can minimize the distraction by sitting close to the aisle and toward the rear.

8 Endeavor to look up the scriptures that are read. This will help you remember what you hear. Talking to your family and friends about what you learn will impress the information on your mind. Applying these suggestions will make the meetings more meaningful and enjoyable, and they will truly "incite [us] to love and fine works."—Heb. 10:24, 25.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER

Week Starting December 4

Song 181

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Praise Jehovah Daily." Questions and answers. Have paragraphs read. Have one or two publishers relate encouraging experiences enjoyed while witnessing informally.

20 min: "Offering the Book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*" Enthusiastically recommend offering the new book, especially to those who have manifested interest in the past. Review the suggested presentations, and have one or two of these demonstrated. Include appropriate explanations of how householder can make donation to worldwide work.

Song 224 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 11

Song 201

13 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Briefly review some reasons why we should plan for a full and meaningful share in field service. Rather than limit ourselves to an hour or so when we go out, why not arrange to stay out for two hours or more if possible? Success usually depends on lining up return visits in advance and arranging to work with others who plan to stay out for two hours or more.

15 min: Local needs. Or a talk based on the article "The Rewards of Persistence," from the August 1, 1995, *Watchtower,* pages 25-9.

17 min: "Prepare for and Enjoy Congregation Meetings." Talk and discussion. Invite one or two publishers to relate what they do that helps them to enjoy the meetings and get the full benefit from them.

Song 28 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 18

Song 139

10 min: Local announcements. Offer some suggestions on how to respond tactfully to holiday greetings. Announce special witnessing arrangements for December 25.

15 min: "Make Your Advancement Manifest." Questions and answers.

20 min: "Return to Those Who Showed Interest." Review suggested presentations, and have two brief demonstrations. Encourage all to make return visits with the goal of starting studies in the *Knowledge* book.

Song 44 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 25

Song 88

5 min: Local announcements. If your meeting times are due to change January 1, give encouragement for all to give full support by making any needed adjustments. (See December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 2.) Announce special witnessing arrangements for January 1.

15 min: Question Box. Two elders discuss value of health-care power of attorney (proxy) forms used locally, which the congregation received from the Society last year. Use information from the December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry* announcement; the November 15, 1994, letter to all congregations; and the question-and-answer folder that accompanies the power of attorney form in use in your area. Highlight the headings, some of the questions and answers, and the checklist with references from the question-and-answer folder. (All bodies of elders should follow the instructions in the September 20, 1995, letter from the Society about supplying copies of these materials to the publishers.)

25 min: "Letting Our Light Shine Continuously." Base brief introduction on paragraphs 1-5. Paragraphs 6-16 to be covered by questions and answers. Read paragraphs 6-9, 15, and 16. Use paragraphs 17-19 for conclusion. Handled by service overseer if possible.

Song 3 and concluding prayer.

Make Your Advancement Manifest

[1] Think back to the time when you first heard the Kingdom message. Simple truths stirred your desire for knowledge and understanding. Soon you were able to see a need to make adjustments in your way of life because Jehovah's ways are so much higher than your ways. (Isa. 55:8, 9) You made advancement, dedicated your life, and got baptized.

[2] Even after making some spiritual progress, there were still weaknesses that had to be overcome. (Rom. 12:2) Perhaps you had fear of man, which made you reluctant to share in field service. Or perhaps you were falling short in displaying the fruitage of God's spirit. Rather than hold back, you were determined to make advancement by setting theocratic goals for yourself.

[3] Several years may now have passed since you made your dedication. In looking back, what advancement can you see in yourself? Have you achieved some of your goals? Do you have the same zeal you "had at the beginning"? (Heb. 3:14) Timothy was already a mature Christian with years of experience when Paul urged him: "Ponder over these things; be absorbed in them, that your advancement may be manifest to all persons."—1 Tim. 4:15.

[4] **Personal Examination Needed:** When we ponder over our past course, do we find that we continue to have some of the weaknesses we had when we started? Have we failed to reach some of the goals we set? If so, why? Even though we had good intentions, we may have procrastinated. Perhaps we have allowed the anxieties of life or the pressures of this system to hold us back.—Luke 17:28-30.

[5] While we can do little about the past, we can certainly do something about the future. We can make an honest appraisal of ourselves, determine where we are lacking, and then put forth a concentrated effort to improve. We may need to do better in displaying the fruits of God's spirit, such as self-control, mildness, or long-suffering. (Gal. 5:22, 23) If we have difficulty getting along with others or cooperating with the elders, it is important that we cultivate humility and lowliness of mind.—Phil. 2:2, 3.

[6] Can we make our advancement manifest by reaching out for privileges of service? With extra effort brothers may be able to qualify as ministerial servants or elders. Some of us may be able to enroll as regular pioneers. For many more, auxiliary pioneering may be a reachable goal. Others may strive to improve personal study habits, become more active participants in congregation meetings, or be more productive as congregation publishers.

[7] It is, of course, up to each one of us to decide where we need to make advancement. We can be sure that our sincere effort to "press on to maturity" will add greatly to our joy and make us more productive members of the congregation.—Heb. 6:1.

Letting Our Light Shine Continuously

1 What is light? The dictionary defines it as "something that makes vision possible." But really, despite his advanced technology, man still does not fully know the answer to the question Jehovah raised as recorded at Job 38:24. Can we get along without light? Without light we could not exist. Light is essential for physical sight, and the Bible tells us that in a spiritual sense, "God is light." (1 John 1:5) We are totally dependent upon the One who "gives us light."—Ps. 118:27.

2 This is true in a physical sense but even more so in a spiritual way. False religion has misguided the masses of people, leaving them in spiritual darkness, "groping for the wall just like blind men." (Isa. 59:9, 10) Prompted by his unsurpassing love and compassion, Jehovah 'sends out his light and truth.' (Ps. 43:3) Literally millions of appreciative ones have responded, coming "out of darkness into his wonderful light." —1 Pet. 2:9.

3 Jesus Christ plays a vital role in bringing this light to the world. He said: "I have come as a light into the world, in order that everyone putting faith in me may not remain in the darkness." (John 12:46) All his time, energy, and resources were directed toward making the light of truth known. He traveled the length and breadth of his homeland, preaching and teaching in virtually every city and village. He endured relentless persecution from every side, but he remained steadfast in his commission to spread the light of truth.

4 Jesus concentrated on selecting, training, and organizing disciples, with a specific goal in mind. At Matthew 5:14-16 we read his instructions to them: "You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light shine before men, that they may see your fine works and give glory to your Father who is in the heavens." Just like Jesus, they were to be "illuminators in the world," disseminating the light of truth far and wide. (Phil. 2:15) They gladly accepted that responsibility, viewing it as their primary purpose in life. A short time later, Paul was able to say that the good news "was preached in all creation that is under heaven." (Col. 1:23) The entire Christian congregation was united in accomplishing that great work.

5 We today should be thankful that we have come to be among those who have "put off the works belonging to darkness." (Rom. 13:12, 13) We can show our appreciation by imitating the example set by Jesus and the faithful Christians in the past. The need for others to hear the truth is more urgent and critical now than at any time in human history. No other activity can begin to compare with this work in its urgency and far-reaching benefits.

6 **How Can We Shine as Illuminators?** The primary way to let our light shine is to share in the Kingdom-preaching work. Every congregation has regular, organized arrangements for preaching in its assigned territory. Huge quantities of literature are made available in great variety and in many languages. Extensive education is provided through the meetings, and assistance in training others personally is offered by those who are experienced. Opportunities to participate are open to men, women, older ones, and even children. Every individual in the congregation is invited to participate at whatever level his abilities and circumstances permit. All the functions of the congregation are focused on preaching, with provisions to help every member share in some way. Regular, close association with the congregation is the best way to ensure that our light keeps shining.

7 We can shine in ways that may not involve a verbal witness. We can attract the attention of others simply by our conduct. That is what Peter had in mind when he urged: "Maintain your conduct fine among the nations, that . . . they may as a result of your fine works of which they are eyewitnesses glorify God." (1 Pet. 2:12) Many judge a work or an organization by the conduct of those associated with it. When observers note people who are morally clean, honest, peaceable, and law-abiding, they view such people as different and conclude that they live by standards that are on a much higher level than those followed by the majority. So a husband is letting his light shine when he honors and cherishes his wife in a loving manner; the wife does the same by respecting her husband's headship. Children stand out as different when they obey their parents and avoid sexual immorality and the use of drugs. An employee who is conscientious about his work, honest, and considerate of others is highly valued. By demonstrating these Christian qualities, we are letting our light shine, recommending our way of life to others.

8 Preaching is talking to others about what we have learned from God's Word. That is done from the public platform or at the doors, but it is by no means limited to such occasions. Our daily activities put us in contact with scores of people. How many times a day do you speak to your next-door neighbors? How often does someone knock at your door? How many different people do you rub shoulders with when you do your shopping, ride the bus, or work at your secular job? If you are a young person in school, can you count the number of individuals you speak to each day? The opportunities to speak to others are virtually unlimited. All you need to do is to get a few Scriptural thoughts in mind, keep a Bible and some tracts

handy, and take the initiative to speak up when you get the chance.

[9] Even though informal witnessing is quite simple, some feel reluctant to try it. They may be reticent, insisting that they are too shy or too nervous to approach strangers. They may feel apprehensive about drawing attention to themselves or getting a harsh response. Those who are experienced in informal witnessing can tell you that there is rarely any cause for anxiety. Others are basically just like us; they have the same needs, feel the same concerns, and want the same things for themselves and their families. Most will respond in a kindly manner to a cheerful smile or a friendly greeting. To get started, you may have to 'muster up boldness.' (1 Thess. 2:2) Once you get going, however, you may be surprised and delighted with the results.

[10] **We Are Blessed When We Let Our Light Shine:** Here are some examples of refreshing experiences resulting from informal witnessing: A 55-year-old lady was attempting to cross the street. Just as a car was about to hit her, a sister grabbed her arm and pulled her to safety, saying: "Please take care. We are living in perilous times!" She then explained why the times are so dangerous. The lady asked, "Are you one of Jehovah's Witnesses?" Having obtained one of our books from her sister, the lady wanted to meet one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and this encounter made it possible.

[11] A sister started a conversation with a woman in a waiting room at the doctor's office. The woman listened attentively and then said: "For some time, Jehovah's Witnesses have been crossing my path; but if sometime in the future I actually become one of Jehovah's Witnesses myself, it will be because of what you just told me. Listening to you is like starting to see light in a dark place."

[12] An act of kindness can be a stepping-stone to helping others learn the truth. While walking home from field service, two sisters noticed an elderly woman who appeared to be ill as she got off the bus. They stopped and asked the lady if she needed help. She was so surprised that two complete strangers would show interest in her that she insisted on knowing what it was that sparked such a kind gesture. This opened the door for a witness. The lady readily gave her address and warmly invited them to visit her. A study was started. Soon the lady began attending meetings and is now sharing the truth with others.

[13] An elderly sister takes advantage of early-morning witnessing on the local beach. She meets housemaids, baby-sitters, bank clerks, and others who take their morning stroll on the boardwalk. She conducts Bible studies, sitting on the benches. Several people have learned the truth from her and are now Jehovah's Witnesses.

[14] At her secular job, a sister heard a fellow worker talk about a political party that she believed could solve the world's problems. The sister spoke up, relating promises about what God's Kingdom will do. This discussion at work led to a regular Bible study in the home, and eventually the lady and her husband became Witnesses.

[15] **Never Forget You Are a Witness!** When Jesus described his disciples as "the light of the world," he reasoned that they should be helping others to benefit from the spiritual enlightenment of God's Word. If we apply Jesus' counsel, how will we view our ministry?

[16] When searching for employment, some people choose a part-time job. They put limits on how much time and effort they will put into it because they prefer to use most of their time pursuing activities they find more rewarding. Are we taking a similar view of our ministry? Even though we might feel obligated and even be willing to set aside some time for the ministry, should our primary interests be elsewhere?

[17] Realizing that there is no such thing as a part-time Christian, we made our dedication, 'disowning ourselves' and agreeing to follow Jesus *"continually."* (Matt. 16:24) Our desire is to continue being "whole-souled," taking advantage of every opportunity to let our light shine in order to reach people wherever they are. (Col. 3:23, 24) We must resist worldly attitudes, maintain our zeal as in the beginning, and make sure that our light continues to shine forth brilliantly. Some may have allowed their zeal to cool off and their light to become only a faint glow, hardly visible a short distance away. Such a one may need help to recover lost zeal for the ministry.

[18] Some may tend to hold back because our message is unpopular to many. Paul said that the message about the Christ was "foolishness to those who are perishing." (1 Cor. 1:18) No matter what others said, however, he forcefully declared: "I am not ashamed of the good news." (Rom. 1:16) One who is ashamed feels inferior or unworthy. How could we possibly feel ashamed when we speak about the Supreme Sovereign of the universe and the marvelous provisions he has made for our eternal happiness? It is unthinkable that we would feel inferior or unworthy when we speak these truths to others. Instead, we should feel compelled to do our utmost, displaying our conviction that we have *"nothing to be ashamed of."*—2 Tim. 2:15.

[19] The light of truth that is now shining in lands all around the earth warmly offers the hope of everlasting life in a paradise new world. Let us show that we have taken to heart the admonition to let our light shine continuously! If we do, we will have cause to rejoice just like the disciples who every day *"continued without letup* teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus."—Acts 5:42.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of September 4 to December 18, 1995. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Jehovah's Witnesses have no leader. [*jv* p. 117 par. 4]
2. Isaiah 38:5 helps us to appreciate that sincere supplications may move Jehovah to do what he might not otherwise have done. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 4/1 p. 15.]
3. Puny man on earth can make the Creator of the universe feel hurt or joy. (Isa. 63:10) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*93 6/15 p. 15.]
4. N. H. Barbour claimed to believe in the ransom, that Christ died *for* us. He rejected the idea of "substitution"—that Christ died *instead of* us. [*jv* p. 131 pars. 3, 4, footnote]
5. Isaiah 53:5, 12 foretold that Jesus Christ would die as a ransom sacrifice to cover the sins of others. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 10/1 p. 14.]
6. Through his study of the Scriptures, Russell came to realize that Christ would not only *return* invisibly but also *remain* invisible, even when manifesting his presence by judgment upon the wicked. [*jv* p. 133 par. 3]
7. Although Jehovah's Witnesses take no part whatsoever in political activities, they do not interfere with what others do as to joining a political party, running for office, or voting in elections. [*uw* p. 166 par. 12]
8. Faithful servants of God prior to the time of Christ had no knowledge about the new world that we hope for. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 2/15 p. 11.]
9. Cyrus became Jehovah's "anointed one" even though there is no evidence that literal oil was poured on him. (Isa. 45:1) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 11/15 p. 30.]
10. In order to serve God with full devotion, Christians need to know the day and the hour when Jehovah will execute Satan's earthly system. [*uw* p. 176 par. 2]

Answer the following questions:

Before ne

11. When should a Christian talk to his doctor about his decision to abstain from blood? [*uw* p. 158 par. 9]
12. In what way was Jesus no part of the world? [*uw* p. 161 par. 2] neutral
13. What does speaking God's Word boldly not mean? [*uw* p. 175 par. 13] being
14. Who is the real "Israel of God," and in what year was it identified? (Gal. 6:16) [*jv* p. 141 pars. 3, 4]
15. What principle was clearly discerned back in 1962 that clarified our understanding of submission to "the superior authorities"? (Rom. 13:1-7) [*jv* p. 147 par. 3] Higher Powers = God.
16. Although we were known in 1931 as Christians and as Bible Students, why was there a need to embrace the distinctive name Jehovah's Witnesses? [*jv* p. 150 par. 5–p. 151 par. 2] a people his Name
17. What belief in connection with the earth and the text at Matthew 5:5 has set Jehovah's Witnesses apart from all Christendom? [*jv* p. 161 par. 3] Earth meek inherit - be a parad
18. In which books and chapters do three of the Gospels provide information about the composite sign identifying "the conclusion of the system of things"? [*uw* p. 178 par. 5] Luke 21
Matt 24, Mark 13

19. Why is the name Jehovah's Witnesses not just a label? [*jv* p. 158 par. 4]
ed to be a Witness

20. Why is there no question among Jehovah's Witnesses as to how adultery, fornication, or homosexuality should be viewed? [*jv* p. 173 par. 1, p. 174 par. 3]
Be clearly outlined

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. When a Christian is checked into a hospital, he should request in writing that no blood be used, and he should talk about it personally to the doctor who will be handling his case. [*uw* p. 158 par. 9]

22. Two ways that we show our reliance on Jehovah are by regularly attending meetings and by regularly turning to him in prayer. [*uw* pp. 170-1 pars. 5-7]

23. From 1976 to 1992, volunteer Const. workers helped with building new Branch facilities in some 60 lands, over 29,000 new KH were formed worldwide, and the organization nearly doubled in size to over 4,470,000 Kingdom publishers. [*jv* p. 114 par. 1, p. 115 par. 1, and p. 117 par. 2]

24. In June 1882, *Zion's Watch Tower* declared that Jeh and J C are separate and not one being, that they are one only in the sense of being in unity, and that the spirit is no more a person than is the spirit of the world. [*jv* p. 123 par. 4]

25. On June 22, 1977, two weeks after Brother Knorr's death, F. Franz became president of the Watch Tower Society. [*jv* p. 109 par. 3]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. Early Christians were derided as haters of the human race because they (would not speak to unbelievers; did not worship idols; shunned violent and immoral entertainment). [*uw* p. 163 par. 7]

27. In Jesus' illustration at Matthew 13:36-43, the wheat represents (the faithful men of old; the great crowd; anointed Christians), whereas the weeds represent (all nonbelievers; imitation Christians; the scribes and Pharisees). [*uw* p. 179 par. 7]

28. God's chief purpose is the (salvation of man; destruction of the Devil; vindication of his sovereignty). [*jv* p. 167 par. 1]

29. An organizational change that began in October 1, 1972, stipulated that (an overseer; a congregation servant; a body of elders) be appointed to care for each congregation. [*jv* p. 106 par. 2]

30. We possess a more complete biography of Jeremiah than of any of the other ancient prophets with the exception of (Daniel; Isaiah; Moses). [*si* p. 124 par. 5]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Lev. 17:11, 12; Isa. 43:10; Jer. 7:31; John 10:16; Acts 4:13

31. A limited secular education does not disqualify one from becoming a fearless proclaimer of the good news. [*uw* p. 172 par. 8] acts 4:13

32. The *only* Scriptural use to which blood could be put highlights its sacredness and emphasizes the value of Christ's sacrifice. [*uw* p. 159 par. 11]

33. There is no rivalry between the anointed class and the great crowd, nor is there any reasoning that because of hope or position, one is superior or inferior to the other. [*jv* p. 171 par. 2]

34. Jehovah has no predecessor; no god existed before him, and there will be none after him because he is eternal, the Supreme Sovereign. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 1/15 p. 22.]

35. Most adults today would not even think of offering their children as sacrifices to idols, yet untold millions of babies are purposely destroyed by abortion, and millions of youths have been offered up on the altar of war. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 1/15 p. 31.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature to be used during **December:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to follow up all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies. Congregations that do not have this publication may use the *Live Forever* book. **January:** *Making Your Family Life Happy, Worldwide Security Under the "Prince of Peace,"* or *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* Congregations that have on hand any 192-page books published prior to 1982 should offer such books first. **February:** Either *Making Your Family Life Happy* or *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

■ Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 1995 with their December literature request. (See the *Watchtower Publications List*, paragraphs 6-8, 10.) The bound volumes will be available in Chinese, Croatian, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to the congregation when this has been done.

■ The Memorial for 1997 will be on Sunday, March 23, after sundown. This advance notice of the date for the 1997 Memorial celebration is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and they must find other facilities.

■ Beginning on April 29, 1996, the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* will be considered at the Congregation Book Study.

■ Beginning with the August 1, 1995, issue of *The Watchtower*, a simultaneous, monthly edition is being produced in Punjabi.

■ Albanian has been added to the languages in which *Awake!* is available. This is a quarterly edition and begins with the January-March 1996 issue. Distributor copies may be requested through the congregation. Please note that there is no subscription arrangement for this quarterly magazine.

■ Work is almost finished on a new CD-ROM, which is *Watchtower Library—1995 Edition*. This will contain a revised program and will add publications released during 1995, 1994, and 1979-1970. There will also be versions in German, Italian, and Spanish. Specific details have been provided in a letter from the Society to all congregations, dated November 25, 1995. Requests for this CD in one or more languages should be submitted by the congregation no later than January 15, 1996.

■ New Publications Available:

Does Fate Rule Our Lives?—Or Does God Hold Us Responsible? (Tract No. 71) —Persian
Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Russian
Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom —Polish
Listening to the Great Teacher —Russian
New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures —Finnish
Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry —Vietnamese
The Bible—God's Word or Man's —Czech
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived —Romanian
The Greatest Name (Tract No. 72) —Persian
Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1990 —Italian
When Someone You Love Dies —Punjabi

QUESTION BOX

■ Should all baptized publishers fill out the health-care power of attorney (proxy) forms that the Society sent to all congregations last year?

"Time and unforeseen occurrence" can suddenly thrust us into situations that test our integrity to Jehovah. (Eccl. 9:11) Preparing for such challenges ahead of time will minimize Satan's opportunity to get us to compromise. (Prov. 22:3; 1 Pet. 5:8) Unforeseen medical emergencies that challenge our resolve to "keep abstaining . . . from blood" are an example of such Satan-inspired attacks on our integrity.—Acts 15:28, 29.

To help us in such medical situations, all congregations in the United States received a supply of health-care power of attorney (proxy) forms from the Society's Legal Department in December 1994. Using pertinent state and federal law, these forms anticipate the type of medical emergency described above and refer to legal authority for judges and hospital lawyers who may question or challenge our refusal of blood. In addition, these forms set forth detailed medical information about minor blood fractions, alternative nonblood management, and end-of-life decisions.

Should all baptized publishers fill out a health-care power of attorney (proxy) form? As the December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry* announcement said, "publishers are not obliged to prepare these forms." Thus, it is a personal decision each one of us must make. However, to make an informed decision about this provision from the Society, we should seriously consider whether we have done all we reasonably can to keep ourselves free from a God-dishonoring blood transfusion.—Prov. 9:9.

As stated in the December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, publishers may obtain these power of attorney (proxy) forms and the explanatory question-and-answer folder from their congregation secretary.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
December 4:	**p. 237, ¶6**	**p. 243, ¶21**
December 11:	**p. 243, ¶22**	**p. 248, ¶9**
December 18:	**p. 249, ¶10**	**p. 253, ¶7**
December 25:	**p. 253, ¶8**	**p. 258, ¶22**

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**176**	**124.3**	**82.7**	**53.4**	**4.7**
Pios.	**75,801**	**79.6**	**41.4**	**23.9**	**2.3**
Aux. Pios.	**25,291**	**59.6**	**30.8**	**14.8**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**809,479**	**9.7**	**6.3**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**910,747**		Baptized: **2,434**		

Offering the Book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*

1 We were delighted when the new book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* was released! It is designed to help people to come quickly to an accurate knowledge of the truth. In December we will have the first opportunity to offer this book in our territory. What can we say to stimulate interest?

2 ***Here is a presentation that might appeal to the person whose faith in God has become weak:***

■ "Many people grew up believing in God, but now they have found that their faith is not what it used to be. What do you think may be the reason for that? [Allow for response.] Our faith in God is strengthened by considering the marvels of the universe. [Read Psalm 19:1.] The One whose laws govern these heavenly bodies has also provided valuable direction for us. [Read Psalm 19:7-9.] These verses stress how important it is to learn all we can about God and his purposes. [Call attention to the illustration on pages 4 and 5, and read the caption.] If you would like to benefit from this special knowledge, I would be pleased to leave this book with you."

3 ***Having some recent distressing news event in mind, you might say:***

■ "Likely you heard about [mention the event]. Have you ever wondered if God is really concerned about the injustice and suffering that we see about us or even experience ourselves? [Allow for response.] The Bible assures us that God loves us and that he will help us through times of distress." Read portions of Psalm 72:12-17. Open the book to page 70, and point out that this book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* answers a question that millions have asked, Why does God permit suffering? "You will find the Bible's answer to that question very comforting. I would like to leave this book with you so that you can read about it yourself."

4 ***If you meet a parent, you might focus on the family:***

■ "Most parents agree that there are many problems in trying to maintain a happy family life. What do you observe to be serious obstacles? [Allow for response.] Most of us do the best we can, but we usually appreciate assistance that will help us achieve better results. The Bible gives excellent advice. [Read portions of Colossians 3:12, 18-21.] The Bible has a lot more to say on this subject, as outlined in chapter 15 of this book, entitled 'Building a Family That Honors God.' It reviews counsel given in the Bible showing how to relieve marital stress and how to cope with the problems facing our children. I am sure you would enjoy reading it."

5 ***If you prefer something brief, you might try this:***

■ "Have you ever wondered why we grow old and die? Chapter 6 in this book explains the cause of death and how God will remove it. The Bible tells us that God has promised everlasting life for those who love him. [Read John 17:3.] If you would like to read about this, you will find the book most enlightening."

6 If we are well prepared, we may be able to use this book to 'open up the Scriptures' to others in a way that will bring them great joy!—Luke 24:32.

Return to Those Who Showed Interest

1 When releasing the new book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* the convention speaker explained that "honesthearted students should be able to learn enough through a study of it to take a stand for Jehovah and get baptized." The book is designed to teach the truth quickly. It concisely provides specific information that can motivate students to make spiritual progress. It presents the truth in a positive way without dwelling on false doctrines. To have success in using this new instrument, we must make return visits on those who showed interest.

2 ***If you spoke to a person who lacked faith in God yet demonstrated some interest, you might begin by opening the book to the illustration on pages 4 and 5 and saying:***

■ "When I was here previously, we looked at this lovely illustration of beautiful surroundings. The caption asks, 'What must you do to enjoy them?' How would you answer that? [Allow for response.] The Bible clearly identifies one of the basic requirements. [Read John 17:3.] Knowledge is essential to our faith in God. An excellent way we can learn what we need to know is by systematically studying the Bible." Turn to chapter 1 and point out some of the encouraging thoughts in paragraphs 1 to 5. Explain how a Bible study is conducted, and offer to return for more discussion.

3 ***If you return to continue your discussion on why God permits suffering, you might say:***

■ "The last time I was here, we talked about [whatever the event was]. The question came up as to why God permits so much suffering in the world. What conclusion did you come to? [Allow for response.] It is encouraging to know that God is not responsible for such distressful conditions." Turn to pages 71-2 in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* and discuss some of the Scriptural thoughts covered in paragraphs 3 to 5. Offer to return again to explain why we can be sure that God's permission of suffering will soon come to an end.

4 ***If you are returning to visit a parent who is concerned about family problems, you might say this:***

■ "I know that you, as a parent, want the best for your children. Since it is impossible to shield them from everything that is bad, you have to teach them how to cope with life's problems. How do you think that can be done? [Allow for response.] One of the most important things a parent can provide is training." Turn to pages 145-6 in the *Knowledge* book, and call attention to the Bible's practical counsel, emphasizing its importance and how following it can be a blessing. Offer to return again to demonstrate how to use this book to learn more about acquiring a happy family life.

5 ***If you are making a call where you used a brief presentation, you could say:***

■ "It was never God's purpose that we grow old and die. He intended that we live forever in a paradise earth." Display the illustration on pages 188-9. Read paragraph 11 on page 184. Make arrangements for another return visit.

6 Surely this new book is another provision from Jehovah to 'speed up' the ingathering work in these last days. (Isa. 60:22) If we use it effectively, we can impart knowledge that may help someone toward gaining everlasting life.

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Our Kingdom Ministry (USPS 295-360) is published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., and International Bible Students Association, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Watchtower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Printed in U.S.A.